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Contentious King Street condo project **appealed** to land tribunal

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The future of a contentious condominium proposed by Bice Builders at the end of King Street

is now out of the hands of Niagara-on-the-Lake's councillors.

The project is going to the Ontario Land Tribunal for a decision, after the developer didn't respond to the town's comments by a late October

deadline, council was told.

Once the deadline passed, Bice was free to go directly to the tribunal.

The developer, Josh Bice, was able to do so because the town didn't make a decision on the three-storey,

17-unit proposal by Oct. 25, staff told council.

However, the failure to rule on the proposal is not the fault of the town, council heard.

The town had been waiting for a response to

comments on his original application when Bice filed the appeal.

"We did provide comments to the applicant and we are waiting on a resubmission so that we could address all those comments in

a recommendation report," said Kirsten McCauley, the town's head of planning and development.

A town spokesperson confirmed the municipality was

Continued on Page 2

NOTL Wolves U18s win regional **Silver Stick**

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

In hockey, it's often said that defence wins championships.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake U18 Wolves got team defence in spades on the weekend – and plenty of offence from their defence – en route to winning the prestigious International Silver Stick regional qualifying tournament in Midland.

The NOTL squad went undefeated over five games, with four wins and a tie against some of their age group's top-ranked teams.

The Wolves went into the tourney ranked 16th among B centre teams in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association and were the fifth seed among the dozen teams competing in Midland.

NOTL played some top-tier hockey and didn't allow a goal until the third game of the round-robin, a 2-2 tie

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Stroll leaders **shed light** on lifelong illness



The Dietsch family, Colton, Kristen, Dylan and Matt, will help lead the Candlelight Stroll. Dylan, 13, was born with cerebral palsy. EVAN LOREE

Evan Loree | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

Twelve-year-old Maya Webster hopes to harness the holiday spirit of caring this December to draw attention to one of the many lifelong illnesses affecting kids all over Canada.

She's one of the leaders of this year's Candlelight Stroll, the annual kick-off to Christmas in Niagara-on-the-Lake, that lights up Old Town and raises money for worthy charitable causes.

Maya will be casting her light

on juvenile diabetes, an autoimmune disorder she's been living with since she was two.

"I'm really excited about getting the opportunity to advocate for diabetes" and riding in one of the horse-drawn carriages that

will lead the stroll, she said.

She's planning to give her share of the money raised at the Candlelight Stroll to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation,

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Lake Report and Tourism NOTL **band together** for visitors guide

Staff
The Lake Report

The Lake Report's national award-winning winter tourism guide "NOTL: A Guide for Distinguished Explorers" is back again, this

year with a new partner.

For the first time, The Lake Report has teamed up with Tourism NOTL to publish the guide to all things Niagara-on-the-Lake.

This year's magazine includes features on local

chefs' icewine pairings, information about our town, some fantastic photography and artwork along with a comprehensive guide to NOTL events, restaurants and the best places to shop this holiday season.

The 80-page glossy magazine is available around town at tourist destinations, stores, hotels and other attractions.

A limited number of copies are available at The Lake Report's office on

Mississauga Street, as well as at the Chamber of Commerce on Queen Street.

"This magazine is always an exciting project to put together," said Lake Report

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King Street condo project **appealed** to land tribunal

Town says developer Bice Builders waited out the clock and didn't respond to comments

Continued from Front Page

still waiting for the developer to respond to feedback when the decision deadline passed.

"It wasn't the town. It was the developer that didn't get back to us to answer our comments," Coun. Wendy Cheropita said during a Nov. 7 council meeting.

The condo, which has been the target of vocal opposition from NOTL residents, would be built on a large vacant lot that backs onto a vineyard, faces King Street, and is adjacent to single-family houses.

Residents, including people who sold Bice property needed for the plan, said they were told the development would be single-family homes and were distraught to learn that wasn't the truth.

The vacant property was once comprised of three lots, but the committee of adjustment approved consolidating them in October 2022 at the developer's request.

John Bice, the developer's father, was vice-chair of the committee at the time, though he declared a conflict of interest on his son's application to consolidate the three lots.

The proposal now in the hands of the tribunal was brought to town staff in a pre-consultation meeting in December 2022, a couple of months after the committee of adjustment made its decision.

At a public meeting in September, McCauley said there were no provisions in the Planning Act which could have prevented the developer's chosen course of action.

Once an amendment application is deemed complete, a municipality has a maximum of 120 days to make a decision.

McCauley said the application was deemed complete June 27 and the deadline for a decision lapsed Oct. 25.

"So, that means if they're granted their appeal, that we have no further input into the development of that property?" Coun. Gary Bur-



Bice Builders, owned by Josh Bice, has appealed its contentious condo project. The company didn't respond to resident input and town comments before the clock ran out on the town's time to make a decision. SOURCED

roughs asked at the council meeting.

Council would still have to stake out a position on the project and staff would still need to provide recommendations on the project, McCauley explained.

“It wasn't the town. It was the developer that didn't get back to us to answer our comments.”

COUN. WENDY CHEROPITA

But “the decision would rest with the tribunal,” she added.

The Lake Report reached out to Josh Bice for comment several times by phone and email, but received no response.

Bice's wife, Erin, would not provide a phone number for her husband and said if he wanted to talk to The Lake Report, he would call.

To date, there has been no response.

Bice's lead planner on the project, Jesse Auspitz, a former planner for the Town of NOTL, said it would be inappropriate to speak to the media about the proposal.

Since the project is subject to legal proceedings, McCauley said staff

recommendations on the project will also not be revealed.

“It will likely come to council in a closed session,” McCauley said.

“I think that's a mistake,” Burroughs told The Lake Report in an interview.

He said staff's position on the condo proposal should be public.

McCauley said staff will continue to work with the developer on a co-operative solution.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa said he didn't have a position on the condo proposal and it would be irresponsible to weigh in on it before seeing a staff report.

“Unfortunately, I'm not going to get a chance to do that,” he said.

As well, commenting on the project could “prejudice the process,” he said.

Zalepa said the town has density targets set out in its official plan, the region's plan and the province's plan.

“That's a starting point,” he said. “We have seen some applications that – not particularly this one – but we've seen some others that are outside that lane.”

He suggested people with vacant lots should try to make projects fit the guidelines.

“That's why those documents are there in the first place,” he added.

But as one private sector planner noted, official plans are often out of date.

“Zoning bylaws are typically 10 years, if not longer, outdated,” said Dan Romanko, a planner with Better Neighbourhoods Inc. of St. Catharines.

“They have to be updated, according to the Planning Act, every five years. Frankly, it seldom happens,” he said.

“The zoning sets out the regulations for what can be built,” he explained — and those zoning rules can be very rigid.

“If your proposed development fits within that box, you can go ahead and build it as of right.”

But that is rare, Romanko said. “Life just doesn't fit into those perfect boxes.”

For that reason, developers tend to go to council looking for zoning modifications.

“Zoning is – it's the law. You can't change the law without going through the process,” he said.

As an example, he cited the right to build secondary suites, which was granted as of right with the passing of the province's Bill 23 in November 2023.

While people have the right, Romanko said they still are bound by municipal bylaws when they want to build.

And those statutes govern everything about the structure: Heights, setbacks, covered porches, orientation of the garage, secondary entrances, similarity to adjacent structures and more.

“Everything that we do has to be permitted and inspected and part of that process is conformity with the bylaw,” he said.

Retired planning professor Pierre Filion says much of the planning process is unpredictable and it is common for towns and developers to stumble into the unexpected.

This appears to be what's happened with the project on King Street, he said.

Despite the fact the developer was able to run out the clock by not responding to the town's comments by the deadline, Filion said he “wouldn't call it a flaw (in the system). I would call it a grey zone.”

The former University of Waterloo professor said this is effectively why the province has a land tribunal.

“Recently, the decisions of the Ontario Land Tribunal have tended to go on the side of the developer,” he added.

And because the King Street project is consistent with provincial objectives to increase and diversify housing stock, it probably would be approved by the tribunal,

if the appeal makes it all the way there, he said.

“In theory, the kind of structure that would be built there – that is being proposed – are the cheapest form of housing.”

Filion said low-rise buildings like Bice's are cheaper to build than high-rise condos and single-family homes.

There's no guarantee the condos will be affordable, though, as the cost of housing comes down to supply and demand, he added.

Also, if the developer builds something “quite posh looking, they'll be expensive,” Filion said.

However, despite developers' success at the tribunal, the town could make the case the non-decision was no fault of its own because the developer never responded to public feedback.

“From that perspective, there is a strong argument from the town's point of view,” Filion said.

As for the residents, “they're doing what they can” by “putting political pressure” on elected officials, he said.

On the other side of the development process, Romanko said towns are starting to hold off on deeming development applications complete.

Municipalities now face tighter deadlines to make decisions on residential properties because of provincial legislation that passed June 1.

“Once they deem them complete and they accept them, the clock starts ticking and they have to refund fees if they don't meet the timelines,” Romanko said.

“They're hiring like crazy to try and meet those demands,” he added.

Filion added the rules are gradually being changed.

Low-density neighbourhoods may become desirable places to build higher-density housing “because of the possibility of generating revenues from that land that is not present at the moment,” he said.

A town official said it isn't known when the tribunal will hold a hearing on the dispute.



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Enter our wrapping paper contest!

Staff
The Lake Report

The Lake Report is excited to announce its first-ever wrapping paper design contest.

In our final issue of the year in 2022, we transformed the two pages of our centrespread into holiday wrapping paper.

The result was a large design families could pull out and use to wrap gifts.

This year, we want to offer a local artist the chance to design the wrapping paper, to give it a special Niagara-on-the-Lake feel.

The theme this year is wide open, so get creative and use your imagination.

Submit your designs by Friday, Dec. 8 for a chance to be selected.



Submit your designs for the wrapping paper contest by Dec. 8. RICHARD HARLEY

Designs should be square in size (about 4x4 inches) and should be easy to duplicate across a larger spread, much like regular

wrapping paper. Artists should also avoid dark backgrounds and use high-contrast images. The contest is open to

kids from one to 82 — because the holiday spirit is for everyone.

Submit your designs to editor@niagaranow.com.

Fundraiser supports families of fallen workers

Staff
The Lake Report

A Niagara-on-the-Lake group wants to do something to make Christmas a little bit brighter for families of farm workers who have died or been injured while working on farms in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

“Seasonal farm workers are our neighbours and friends, not a disposable workforce,” said Jane Andres, who founded Niagara Workers Welcome in 2007. “We are building a caring community together and that care extends to families back home in the Caribbean.”

The families have faced hardship through tragedy and need help, Andres said.

“No family should have to go through these tragedies alone. For Kemar (Campbell) and Daniel’s (Brown) families, it will be their first Christmas without their loved ones.”

To help, Niagara Workers Welcome is hosting an online fundraiser until Dec. 20 to support the families of three workers who lost their lives or were injured while working in Niagara-on-the-Lake under the federal Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program.

The goal is to raise \$3,000



Daniel Brown with wife and daughter. SUPPLIED

to provide one month of groceries to the three families in Jamaica.

The families being helped include those of 31-year-old Campbell and 34-year-old Brown, both who worked on a NOTL farm and passed away in their sleep.

When Campbell left Jamaica for Niagara, he had a four-month-old daughter and was participating in the farm work program for the first time.

Brown, meanwhile, was the father of two young daughters, a four-year-old and a newborn. Campbell and Brown worked on the same farm and would often connect about the joys

of young fatherhood and the pain of family separation.

The third recipient is the family of Jeleel Stewart, who was permanently injured on the job at a NOTL nursery back in 2008.

Suffering from severed tendons and nerves in his hand has prevented him from working for the past 15 years, resulting in the severe decline of his health. Jeleel has five children.

While donations of all sizes are welcome, donations of \$100 and more will be entered into a draw to win a one-night getaway at Applewood Hollow Bed and Breakfast, Andres said.

For more information or to donate via eTransfer, please contact niagraworkerswelcome@gmail.com with the memo “Family Fund.”

Niagara Workers Welcome is a grassroots initiative dedicated to creating a caring community for farm worker neighbours. The organization has co-ordinated efforts to supply welcome bags and events for workers for the past 16 years.

In 2023, 642 seasonal farm workers received welcome kits containing necessities and notes of appreciation. For more information, visit: workers-welcomeniagara.com.

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\$6M project will extend fort's shoreline walkway and breakwall

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's historic Fort Mississauga is getting another upgrade — to the tune of \$6 million.

Parks Canada announced the funding Friday, which will be used to build a 500-metre section of break-wall to protect the land near the fort from increased shoreline erosion.

The job will take about two years to complete.

No work will be done on the fort's tower but deteriorated earthworks around the site will be shored up and the existing shoreline walkway will be extended along the perimeter of the NOTL Golf Club, Parks Canada spokesperson Julia Grevic said.

The project, awarded to Rankin Construction of St. Catharines, means most of the tree canopy will be removed along the Lake Ontario shoreline parallel to the first fairway at the golf club.

This is the final phase of breakwall construction along the shore, after 600 metres of protection and walkway was earlier built along the western edge



Parks Canada is constructing a 500-metre breakwall near Fort Mississauga. The project is expected to take about two years to complete and will require the removal of trees along the bank. RENE BERTSCHI/SKYVIEW ARTS

of the golf club, which leases the land from Parks Canada.

Before the earlier work was completed, many members of the golf club expressed concerns about the loss of trees.

However, the changes allayed those fears because they resulted in much-improved and somewhat spectacular views of the lake and Toronto skyline.

Shoreline erosion is caused in part by more frequent and severe storms and high-water levels due to climate change on the Great Lakes.

"These measures will ensure public safety, safeguard historic artifacts along the property, and protect Parks Canada-administered lands leased by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club," Parks Canada said in announcing the project.

The money is part of a \$557 million infrastructure investment announced by the federal government in 2022.

The earlier phase of the project also included the installation of the shoreline walking trail and a boardwalk to access the Fort Mississauga tower and earthworks.

The fort itself has also been restored since 2019,

as part of a \$7.3 million infrastructure project.

Parks Canada said the shoreline has "many non-native and invasive tree and shrub species with root systems that damage archeological resources within the earthwork fortification and the surrounding grounds."

The agency also said there are trees and large shrubs that are falling or at risk of falling into the water

as the shoreline erodes.

"Parks Canada will remove this vegetation to support the breakwall construction and then plant native grasses, selected for their minimal maintenance and water requirements."

The agency has promised that for every tree removed during the work it will plant two new native species trees or shrubs in the area.

Preparation work on the new phase of the project has begun, Grevic said.

Shoreline work can only happen at certain times of the and may pause during fish spawning or bird migration seasons, she said.

"Parks Canada is committed to the protection of wildlife and aquatic habitat," she said.

The total federal investment for the shoreline work, including the previously completed walking path and vegetation work, is \$10.4 million.

Chris Bittle, parliamentary secretary for the minister of housing, infrastructure and communities, said the government is investing in Fort Mississauga "to ensure we give our past a future."

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Claus for a cause

Elf and Santa Run benefits youth collective

Staff
The Lake Report

A program that provides a safe space for youth in Niagara-on-the-Lake will be the beneficiary of Niagara's charitable holiday spirit, as a slew of St. Nicks – and a large number of elves – converge on Simcoe Park on Dec. 17.

Hundreds of participants are expected to turn out for the Elf and Santa Run with \$5 for each entry going to the NOTL Youth Collective, a program for kids from grades 6 to 12.

Last year's race raised more than \$5,500 for the collective. The funds were used to offset the cost of babysitter and first aid certification programs.

"This support helped certify over 30 new babysit-



An army of St. Nicks and elves will converge on Simcoe Park on Dec. 17 to go for a run. FILE/DAVE VAN DE LAAR

ters and provided more than 50 youth with the first aid certification" said Caroline Polgrabia, a member of the youth collective and a sales agent with NOTL Realty.

NOTL Realty is the title sponsor for the event, which is being staged by VR Pro,

a race and event management company.

So far, more than \$2,500 has been raised heading into next month's event.

There are two races – a 1K elf race and a 5K Santa race. Participants will be treated to a post-race break-

fast catered by the Irish Harp Pub. Runners will hit the road at 10 a.m.

"We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to the race and to working with all of the great local businesses as well as our charity," said Kelly Arnott, VR Pro co-founder and race director.

Registration for the 5K is \$70, including a Santa suit and \$55 with no suit. The entry fee for the kids' 1K elf run is \$25. Runners can also take part in the 5K virtually (with a suit) for \$50.

There are also special rates for group entries of four people or more. All runners will receive a goodie bag.

More information is available at raceroster.com/events/2023/71914/notl-santa-and-elf-run.

Magazine is 'de facto' guide to NOTL

Continued from Front Page

publisher Richard Harley.

"And this year, with the addition of Tourism NOTL, it's packed with even more winter fun than ever before."

Tourism NOTL's section has a 12-page spread of things to do in the winter.

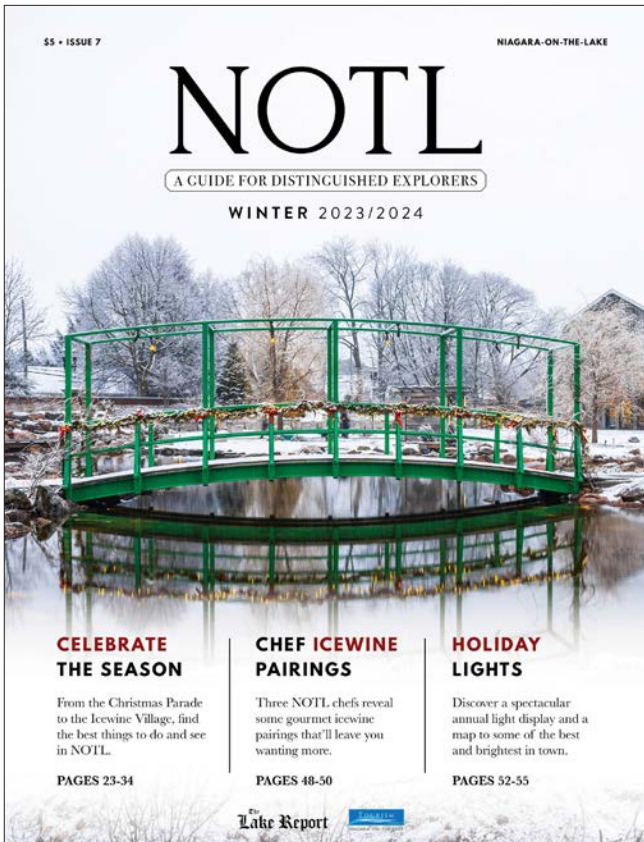
There is also a message from Harley and Tourism NOTL president Minerva Ward about what makes the town such a special place to spend the holiday season.

"Of course, this all wouldn't be possible without the support of our advertisers," Harley added.

"Those businesses will now be shown off to the visitors who arrive in our town this year."

The goal of the magazine, Harley added, is to reach people who have already decided to travel to Niagara-on-the-Lake, so it's a "perfect pairing" with Tourism NOTL, which does destination marketing to help attract people to town.

"Tourism NOTL helps get people to NOTL, and when they're here, we hand them this de facto guide to the best of NOTL," he said. "It's a win-win for everyone involved."



The "NOTL" magazine hits the streets this week.

The magazine covers the winter season up to the end of March, at which point The Lake Report will be gearing up for its annual summer magazine.

"We are thrilled to announce our partnership with The Lake Report, the publisher of the NOTL summer and winter guides," said Ward.

"This collaboration marks a significant milestone in our efforts to showcase the vibrant, dynamic nature of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Our town, renowned for its wine country, rich history, stunning landscapes, and cultural diversity, now has an even greater platform to share its story," she said.

The guide aims to offer

visitors a comprehensive overview of all the events and experiences the town offers throughout the year, she said.

"This partnership is more than just a means of promotion. It's a celebration of our community. It benefits not only our visitors, who will now have a more enriched travel experience, but also our local businesses, artisans, and residents, who are the heartbeat of Niagara-on-the-Lake."

The magazine provides businesses a platform to highlight their products, services and events, while creating a more interconnected and thriving community, she added.

"We believe that this partnership will enhance the overall experience of everyone involved – from the first-time visitor to the long-standing resident – and further solidify Niagara-on-the-Lake as a premier destination for tourism."

Anyone looking to reserve a spot for the summer magazine should email advertising@niagaranow.com as soon as possible. Limited spaces are available.

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Maya Webster is excited to be leading the Candlelight Stroll this year. EVAN LOREE

Continued from Front Page

which is working on a cure for diabetes.

Maya and her mom, Christi Webster, have been working with the foundation for about six years and Maya has been a vocal advocate.

She is the subject of a feature story elsewhere in this week's issue of The Lake Report.

Dylan Dietsch, 13, the second leader of this year's stroll, has lived with cerebral palsy his whole life and uses a wheelchair.

He and his family plan to use their share of the proceeds to pay for a lift that will help Dylan get up and down the stairs in their home.

Dad Matt Dietsch said Dylan wasn't sure yet about being in the Candlelight Stroll and the family will have to navigate a few unknowns when the day comes.

The Cerebral Palsy Can-

ada Network, an advocacy group that helps to advance awareness of the disorder, describes it as a "non-progressive impairment of the developing central nervous system."

"It's a neurological disorder that affects people's communication of brain to the body," Matt explains.

Mom Kristen Dietsch said there's lots of room for improvement for those who have cerebral palsy, unlike some lifelong illnesses that tend to worsen with time.

Matt agrees, saying many mobility issues caused by cerebral palsy can be repaired with surgeries and speech impediments can be treated with speech therapy.

Dylan has had tendon-lengthening surgery on his right arm to help the muscles relax.

"His hand used to sit basically as far back down as you could touch your wrist," Matt said.

Cerebral palsy exists on a wide spectrum, he added,

and Dylan is in the mid-range.

"His big thing is he has a hard time expressing himself."

The smiley student of Crossroads Public School communicates with a small vocabulary, gestures and some sign language.

Sitting on the floor with his dad and brother nearby, Dylan rocks back and forth, and is able to move his legs and left arm, but walking remains a challenge.

Eight-year-old brother Colton said he often gets questions about why Dylan uses a wheelchair and why he doesn't "speak like we do."

"I don't want to call it ignorance because it's not ignorance," Matt said. It's more a case of people taking small things for granted.

"A step to you is nothing, a step to a wheelchair is everything."

Cerebral palsy is caused, often at birth, by a lack of oxygen to the brain, he said, and attributes Dylan's con-

dition to how he got caught in the birth canal during labour.

He recalls being a "little scared at the time."

"The unknown is always scary," he said. "As a parent, you have to be adaptive."

Over the years Matt said he's found tremendous support in the community, through organizations like Red Roof Retreat, where Dylan has attended summer camp.

The family is taking Dylan's future step by step, with high school being the next big chapter ahead.

"We're always going to do the best we can do to make him succeed," Matt said.

However, it's been an "amazing journey" watching his son overcome many obstacles in life.

The Candlelight Stroll is Friday, Dec. 1. A few thousand people generally turn out for it the walk through the Heritage District. The opening ceremony starts at 6:30 p.m. and the stroll begins at 7 p.m.

Two NOTL kids take lead on boosting **diabetes awareness**

Evans Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Some people just don't get it.

In their work to increase research and awareness of juvenile diabetes, 11-year-old Greta Sobol and 12-year-old Maya Webster hear some questions more than others.

One of the more common assumptions people make is that people with juvenile diabetes can't have sugar, Maya says.

"Or junk food," adds Greta.

The two youngsters, both of whom live with Type 1 diabetes, say that's not the case.

November marks Diabetes Awareness Month in Canada every year and Greta and Maya are keen for people to learn more about it.

Managing Type 1 diabetes, also called juvenile onset, is more about balancing what you eat with how much insulin you take.

"A lot of people I know mix up Type 1 and Type 2," Maya said.

"Type 1 is an autoimmune disease, so you can't help it," she said.

Or, as national advocacy organization Diabetes Canada puts it, the "body's immune system destroys the cells that make insulin."



Greta Sobol and Maya Webster chill out in the treehouse in Greta's backyard. EVAN LOREE

"Type 2 diabetes is a disease in which your body cannot make enough insulin, or your body does not properly use the insulin it makes," the organization says on its website.

It is caused by a combination of genetics and lifestyle choices.

In either case, the disease is treated with synthetic insulin, which is delivered to the body through an injection device.

In non-diabetics, insulin is a hormone produced in the pancreas, which allows the body to process sugar.

Some Type 2 diabetics can manage their blood sugar with exercise, healthy food choices and medications, without having to rely on insulin injections.

It is usually diagnosed in adulthood, whereas juvenile diabetes is generally found in kids – hence the name.

"Also, Type 2 is way more common," Greta said.

Maya has been living with diabetes since she was about two and Greta since she was nine.

"Our moms met on Facebook when I was first diagnosed," Greta said.

Ann Deuerlein, Greta's mom, explained she reached out to Christi Webster through a common friend and, a year and a half later, their daughters continue to share a "loving friendship."

Deuerlein says Webster has shared a wealth of knowledge with her about managing diabetes since

Greta was first diagnosed in April of last year.

Maya says she does not have many friends at school who can relate to her experience with diabetes, but Greta gets it.

Both now use Omnipod automated injection devices, but they both started with injection therapy, taking five needles a day.

Omnipods, on the other hand, affix to the skin with an adhesive tape and can be remotely controlled with a cellphone.

The devices are inserted once every three days.

"I used to cry so much, when I had to take my nighttime dose," Greta said. "I would scream and kick down doors."

Deuerlein recalled that her daughter would get so mad about having to take needles she'd "scream that she hated me."

The family ended up putting Greta in boxing lessons so she could vent her frustrations.

Both youngsters agreed that one of the more challenging parts of growing up with diabetes is managing physical activity.

Maya, a basketball player, says she once had to sit out of gym class because her blood sugar was low.

Low blood sugar levels can be especially dangerous, she says, because they

can "lead to diabetic coma and death."

On its website, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation explains that some types of exercise can cause blood sugar to spike, while others cause it to drop.

Low blood sugar can also be caused by excessive amounts of insulin.

It's frustrating to be pulled aside in the middle of basketball practice to deal with dropping blood sugar, Maya said.

Maya said she feels empty when she's low and Greta said she gets irritable.

"It's really frustrating, because I don't mean to be rude," Greta said.

Other symptoms of low blood sugar include trembling, sweating, confusion and dizziness.

Low blood sugar, however, can be fixed quickly with a glass of juice, which is full of simple sugars that the body can use up quickly.

Low blood sugar are not just caused by activity, though, and high blood sugar comes with a different set of risks.

Webster said she and her family had quite a scare with Maya when she was about four.

At the time, Maya was testing her blood sugar with a lancet and a glucose metre, but today, she uses a

continuous monitor made by Dexcom.

Her new device continuously tracks her sugar and delivers the readings to her phone.

"Her pump (Omnipod) came out one morning, she was getting ready for school. We didn't know," Webster said.

Her father checked the Omnipod to make sure it was working and didn't notice anything wrong, Webster said.

Her blood sugar started rising in the car on the way to school and in less than two hours Maya was at the hospital with a serious complication known as ketoacidosis.

Similarly, high blood sugar can also result in a coma, though Maya's symptoms did not progress that far.

Webster said her daughter was throwing up and very lethargic at the hospital.

"Seeing how fast it all happened. It was pretty scary," she said.

According to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, other symptoms of ketoacidosis include excessive thirst and urination, fatigue, fruity smelling breath and nausea.

Maya suggests people read up on diabetes at the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's website, jdrf.ca, to learn more.

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Seniors housing survey attracts more than 200 replies so far

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

More than 200 people have so far completed a major survey that aims to find out what Niagara-on-the-Lake residents' housing needs and desires are as they age.

The comprehensive online survey is a key research tool that a committee of residents is using to determine what sort of housing options people need in town.

As of Monday, 214 people had filled out the survey, an impressive number for the first two weeks, said researcher Steve Ferley, one of the people helping the ad hoc residents committee take the pulse of NOTL seniors.

But "we'd really like to get double that number," Ferley said in an interview.

The more people who complete the survey, the better the data and the more comprehensive the project's outcome, no matter what the data shows.

"We're not trying to promote any particular agenda," Ferley said. "We are trying to measure what people want."

As a researcher, he aims to "let the data speak because it will let us know what people want."

More than half of NOTL's population of 19,000 is over the age of 55 and many residents have concerns about what housing options



Researcher Steve Ferley holds one of the business cards that are available around town to remind residents to complete the seniors housing survey. KEVIN MACLEAN

will be available as they get older

That's where the online questionnaire comes in.

It is available in a variety of forms, including a QR code that people can click on by using their smartphone camera or a direct link to the survey via <https://forms.office.com/r/NGNVQ11SZd>.

As well, anyone without internet access or who has trouble accessing the survey can call 905-468-7498 for help.

Details of the survey are being published in The Lake Report and NOTL Local, posters are being put up around town and business cards promoting the research are being distributed to remind people to complete the survey.

Ferley and fellow researcher Michael Ennamorato worked with the committee and with Niagara College to develop

the questionnaire.

"We want an objective, unbiased measure of the situation," Ferley said. "We don't know what people want yet."

No personal identifying details will be collected and responses will be anonymous.

The group has partnered with the Niagara College School of Business, Prof. Nick Farnell and a team of graduate students in the business analytics program to collect and analyze the results, in conjunction with Ferley and Ennamorato.

Cindy Grant, spokesperson for the residents group that got the ball rolling on the survey, said she's repeatedly hearing from people in the community who welcome the project and want to have their say.

"I was at a Rotary Club meeting on Tuesday and reminded people not to

forget to fill out the survey," she said.

She was then "mobbed" by members who wanted one of the business cards so they could do the survey.

Besides Grant, the committee that inspired the survey includes Robert Bader, Al Bisback, Fran Boot, Bill Halpenny, Sandra Hardy, Terry Mactaggart, Sandra O'Connor, Tom Smith, Tim Taylor and Peggy Walker.

"The whole intent of the survey is to put hard numbers to it, rather than just anecdotes" about what some people think the community might need, Grant said.

"Right now, all we're doing is assessing the need, the level of need," she added.

"First, we have to quantify the demand so that we can get the attention of the town, the region, developers and whoever else has a stake in this. Then we'll start talking about solutions."

With the professional bona fides of Niagara College, plus Ferley and Ennamorato supporting the survey, she is confident that the results will be taken seriously – no matter what they show.

Ennamorato said it is crucial to approach the research with no preconceived notions about what people want.

Everyone is different and even individuals in the same household might have divergent opinions, he added.

Town blames contractor for bad sound Nov. 11

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

After the embarrassing failure of the sound system during the Remembrance Day ceremony in Old Town, Niagara-on-the-Lake staff are pointing the finger at a contractor hired to provide the service.

"There's been nothing but complaints for any of us who were there and, of course, the Legion is being blamed for all of it," Coun. Gary Burroughs said at a



council meeting on Nov. 21.

"I'm not trying to blame anybody but can we ensure it won't happen again?"

Kevin Turcotte, the town's manager of parks and recreation, told council the sound

system was left to private contractor this year. The town said the vendor was Production Service Industries of St. Catharines.

"And unfortunately they dropped the ball," Turcotte said.

The town had similar problems at last year's Remembrance Day ceremony as well.

"We had some complaints last year about the sound quality and that's something we did in-house," said Turcotte.

The contractor will not

be billing the town for the service and has offered to do a future event for the town free.

Al Howse, president of NOTL's branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, wrote in a letter to the editor Nov. 22 that, to fix the ongoing sound issues, he was "taking that burden off the town."

Coun. Wendy Cheropita said the town could alternatively work with the Shaw Festival to deliver high-quality sound on Remembrance Day.

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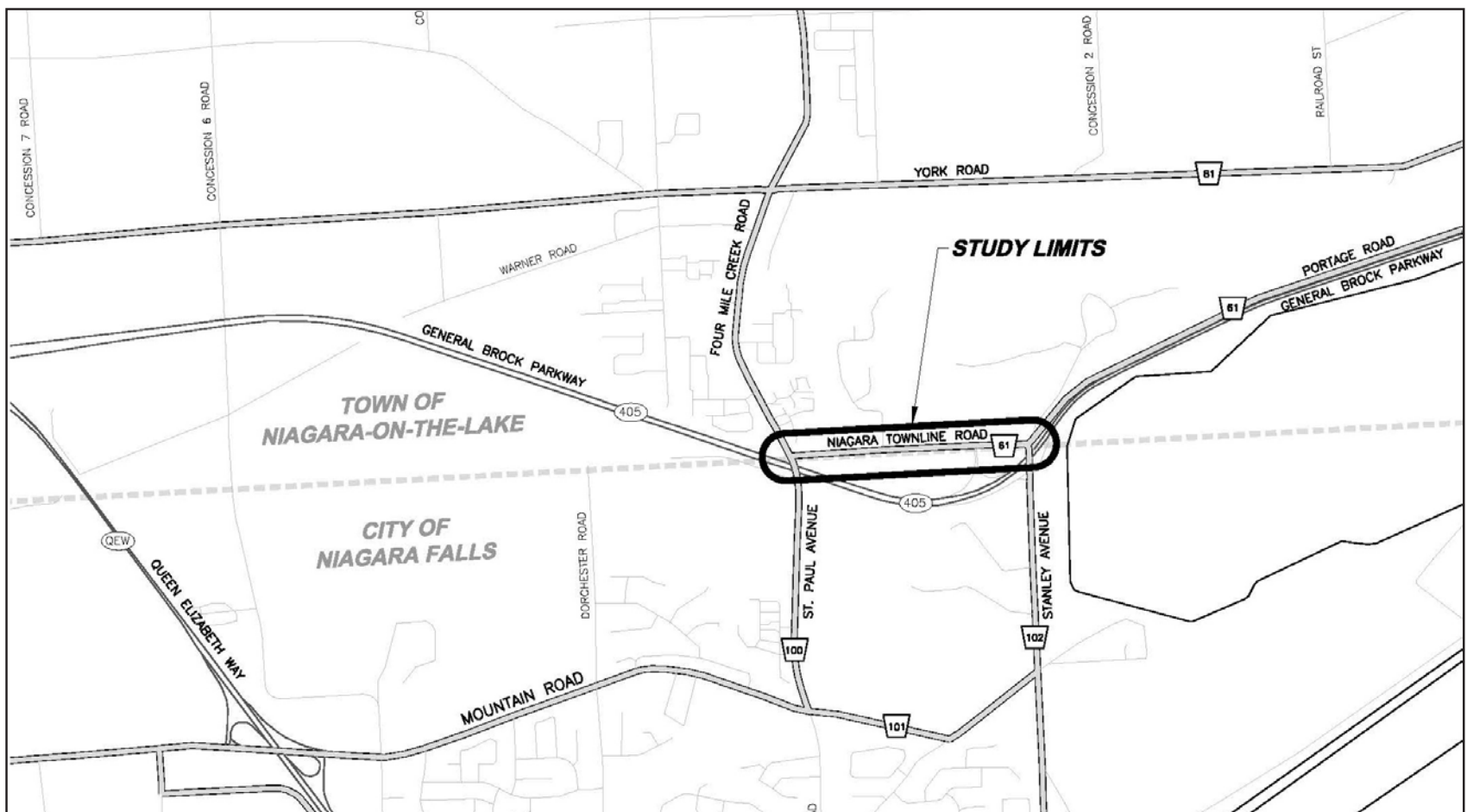
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Public Notice

Public Participation Meeting Proposed Street Name Change

Townline Stamford Road (Regional Road 61) to Niagara Townline Road (Regional Road 61)



Niagara Region has received a formal request to consider changing the name of Townline Stamford Road (Regional Road 61) to Niagara Townline Road (Regional Road 61).

The proposed change would provide that Townline Stamford Road be renamed to Niagara Townline Road.

The public participation meeting is being held during Niagara Region's Public Works Committee as follows:

Date: Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Council Chamber, Campbell West Entrance, Regional Headquarters

To provide input orally at the Public Meeting, please pre-register with the Regional Clerk by sending an email to clerk@niagararegion.ca before noon on Monday, Jan. 8.

To provide written input, please either mail your comments to the Office of the Regional Clerk, Niagara Region, and 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Ontario, L2V 4T7 or send an e-mail to clerk@niagararegion.ca by 9 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 5.

Direct any inquires with respect to the proposed street name change of Townline Stamford Road (Regional Road 61) to Mr. Graeme Guthrie, Associate Director Transportation Engineering at 905-980-6000 ext. 3249 or graeme.guthrie@niagararegion.ca or Mr. Petar Vujic, Manager Road Safety at ext. 3238 or petar.vujic@niagararegion.ca.

Notice of Proposed Adoption of the Street Name Change By-law:

It is the intention that the proposed street name change by-law will be forwarded to Regional Council for consideration on Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024.

Accommodations for Participation

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend and participate in the Jan. 9, 2024 meeting, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Special accessibility accommodations and materials in alternate formats can be arranged by contacting Niagara Region's **Accessibility Advisor** at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.

Personal Information Collection

Any personal information collected at public meetings or submitted in writing is collected under the authority of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, will be collected, used and disclosed, where applicable, by members of Regional Council and Regional Staff according to the **Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**. The written submissions including names and contact information and the report of the public meeting will be made available to the public. Any information you share will only be used for the intended purpose for which it was provided. For questions or comments about privacy practices, or for more information about the administration of the **Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act** in Niagara Region programs see niagararegion.ca/government/foi.



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Contributed by Patty Garriock
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Santa's little helper



Santa gets kisses from Ellie, the three-year-old border collie, during a special photos with Santa day at St. Davids Veterinary Clinic on Saturday. The event has become an annual tradition for the vet clinic. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Editorial

Flawed development system **needs fixing**

Richard Harley
 Editor-In-Chief

There has to be a better way. It's easy to say that about just about any process. Most times they can be streamlined, made more efficient and flaws can be fixed. But when it comes to development processes and downright loopholes that allow developers to skirt democracy, it's time for a change.

This week we've written about one of those loopholes, which allows developers to run out the clock on municipalities, giving them the ability to take their projects over the heads of our elected officials and bring their proposals directly to the Ontario Land Tribunal. So far, most tribunal rulings have been in favour of development companies.

Thanks to changes implemented by Doug Ford's government, once a municipality has deemed a project application to be complete, it has just 90 to 120 days,

depending on the situation, to approve the project.

If the city or town fails to do so, the developer can appeal to the tribunal.

It's a flawed process for several reasons:

- Most municipalities don't have the staff resources to deal with every application in 90 to 120 days.
- There is insufficient time for resident input and feedback.
- The Ontario Land Tribunal has a disturbing history of favouring development, to the point that of 178 decisions by the agency in 2022, only six went against developers, according to a report by the Hamilton Spectator.

That's a discouraging pattern and when combined with flaws in the system, it gives developers free rein to do whatever they want, wherever they want.

It's much more than a simple "grey area" of legality, as one expert planner labelled it.

And what's even more disturbing is that there doesn't appear to be any

limits on the reasoning a town might not have made a decision on a project within 90 to 120 days — such as whether the developer is even bothering to respond to the town's comments, the resident input or concerns from elected council members.

In essence, a developer can go on a long vacation, ignore the town's messages and requests for an updated plan, and then take the project to the tribunal at the end of the day and almost certainly win whatever they want.

It's a major flaw in the system.

So what can be done about it?

Our politicians can direct town staff to deny any permit if a developer isn't playing ball.

No answer to our emails or letters? Then no building.

No concern or willingness to adjust plans based on what residents desire? Then you can't get what you want either.

Or the town could just

deem every application incomplete until a full assessment, including resident input, has been done and responded to by the developer.

Developers are integral — they build our homes. And we have densification targets to meet so that housing is something every Canadian can enjoy.

And developers shouldn't have to wait forever for a decision on their projects.

But there has to be a better system that allows for a more democratic process, especially surrounding contentious developments.

People's voices are important and developers, large or small, shouldn't be able to steamroll residents' concerns and input in the name of making an easy buck.

If that's the way Ontario wants to do it, let's stop having elections, let's stop having open houses for projects — and stop acting like the people get a say.

Because as it stands, they don't.

editor@niagaranow.com

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LETTER OF THE WEEK

Ford privatization plans are **bad for Ontarians**

Dear editor:

It seems Ontario Premier Doug Ford is once again trying to implement changes to government operations that will run contrary to the interests of Ontario citizens, including those of us who have the privilege of living in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

I refer, of course, to his initial moves to privatize the Liquor Control Board of Ontario. In fact, the LCBO delivers an average of around \$2 billion in profit to Ontarians each year.

This money is typically used to offset the cost of Ontario programs such as health care, education or social services.

Instead, in typical Conservative fashion, he wants to deliver these profits to private industry instead, with no plans to replace the benefits that citizens reap from this service.

The LCBO has done a wonderful job of retailing its wares since 1927.

It also has effectively



Writer J. Richard Wright says Ontarians need to step up and make sure Doug Ford doesn't get another term.

controlled these spirits that, in the wrong hands, can create very real damage to people's lives.

For instance, in 2019, it challenged more than 12.1 million potential customers who failed to produce proper ID, or were inebriated, or were ineligible to purchase its products for valid reasons.

Can we depend on private

industry (where profit figures prominently over every other consideration) to be as stringent?

From so many recent events, it seems Doug Ford always chooses to represent the interests of private industry over those of his constituents.

Why would that be?

Let's think back to another Conservative premier, Mike

Harris.

During his reign, he successfully built 20,000 long-term care beds for seniors but then turned the majority of them over to private industry.

Today Harris serves as the chair of the board of the largest long-term care organization in Ontario: Chartwell Retirement Residences.

For that he is paid north of \$250,000 a year and receives other lucrative benefits.

So, is there method to Doug Ford's continuing slavish subservience to private industry? Might there be rewards in his future?

It seems only the Shadow knows.

One hopes Ontarians will put aside the Rip Van Winkle act and ensure Ford isn't re-elected after so many scandals, missteps and insincere apologies by his government.

*J. Richard Wright
NOTL*

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Ontario PCs' selling assets means short-term gain for **long-term pain**



Keith McNenly
Special to The Lake Report

What is it with Ontario Progressive Conservative politicians that as soon as they gain power they have to find a public asset to give to a foreign company for 100 years?

Russia's czar sold Alaska to the United States in 1867, (the year Canada was born; wish we'd bought it) for \$7.2 million.

Napoleon offered the Louisiana Purchase, (the middle of the United States from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border), more than 2 million square kilometres of land, for \$15 million, less than 3 cents

per acre. Think about that when you watch the new movie "Napoleon" at the cinema.

If I was French or Russian I'd be ticked off even today. You can't get land back, and no matter the desire for the cash at the time, selling the people's assets to another country or a private company is just not smart.

Which brings me to the province's Progressive Conservative Party, sadly.

As an Ontario taxpayer, the surprise sale of our brand new Highway 407 still rankles today. It's beyond comprehension that the province didn't impose toll rate controls in the sale. What were they thinking?

I recently had a need to get from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Peterborough quickly in midday and found it would cost me over \$100 round trip using the 407.

The Progressive Conservative politicians under

Mike Harris sold Highway 407 for \$3.1 billion in 1999. It had been projected it would be paid off and be a free highway by 2029, about five years from now.

Instead, Harris and his Progressive Conservative government sold/leased the 407 for 100 years. Did he include an automatic renewal? Will some future generation of Ontario ever get it back?

Profits for the investors of the new owners of the 407 will continue to be exponential, having actually doubled from about a quarter-billion dollars in 2022 to nearly a half-billion in 2023.

The highway is now owned by subsidiaries of the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (total 50.01 per cent), Spain's Cintra Global S.E. (43.23 per cent) and AtkinsRéalis Canada Inc., formerly SNC-Lavalin Inc. (6.76 per cent).

Highway 407 was conceived and built by the NDP

for working-class Ontarians as an alternative to the congested Highway 401, to get commuters safely and quickly to their jobs and home again to their families each working day.

It is now primarily a highway for the rich.

And this brings me to the Ontario asset sale of 2023.

Doug Ford and his Progressive Conservatives are leasing Ontario Place to a foreign company for 95 years to build a spa for the rich people in Toronto. It means less access to the city's waterfront for the common folk.

Most of the Toronto waterfront has already been covered with luxury condo towers. Sounds similar to the 407 debacle: some of the most valuable land in Canada, on the largest city's waterfront, taken from the poor and given to the rich.

Do you remember what you used your share of Mike's 407 sale money for

in 1999? I don't either.

Right now, since ordinary Ontario citizens can't afford to drive on the ludicrously expensive 407, Premier Doug is planning a new Highway 413 through the Niagara Escarpment and sensitive wetlands even farther north of Toronto.

Highway 401 is too busy and commuters simply won't pay the ridiculous unregulated tolls for the underused 407.

By the way, do you remember the highly significant 407 lease or the lease of the best Toronto waterfront lands being part of the Progressive Conservative election platforms?

No? That's because these asset sales weren't in their election platforms. Funny that.

Now I'm back around where I started. Emperor Napoleon sold millions of square kilometres of North America for short-term cash and a forever loss to the French people. Czar

Alexander sold Alaska for short-term cash and forever loss of Russia's part of North America.

Mike Harris and Doug Ford's Progressive Conservative governments are selling off Ontario's best assets to outside interests, a forever loss for ordinary Ontario citizens.

I'm off to the cinema now to see the "Napoleon" movie, but while I watch him lose the war, my mind might drift to the middle third of the United States that he sold away from France, the \$100 trip I didn't pay to take on the 407 across Toronto, and maybe the new spa I'll never go to on sensitive Toronto waterfront lands.

But mostly I'll be thinking about the fact our Progressive Conservative premiers are such short-term thinkers.

Keith McNenly was the chief administrative officer of the Town of Mono for 41 years.

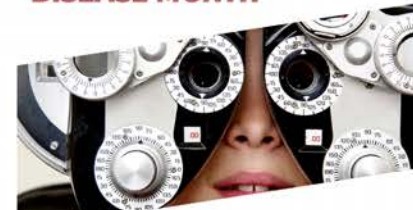


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DIABETIC EYE DISEASE MONTH



Draft design guidelines an ‘impressive piece of work’



Brian Marshall
Columnist

Before we get into this week’s primary topic, I’d like to extend my best wishes to an individual who served the people of Niagara-on-the-Lake as our principal heritage planner for more than eight years.

I had the pleasure of working with Denise Horne on multiple occasions over the past few years.

Aside from her dedication to the preservation of NOTL’s heritage in all its iterations, Horne actively sought opportunities to expand her expertise in the field in order to enhance the effectiveness of her role within the town’s operations.

One could easily apply adjectives like “respectful,” “responsive,” “incredibly hard-working” and “competent” (an accolade I seldom award) to her performance, but even more importantly, it was always clear that her primary motivation was service to the community and its citizens.

This town lost a rare and caring professional when Horne decided to leave public service for the private sector. That said, I am confident her talents will make their contributions felt on a larger stage and I wish her every success.

Moving on, I was elated to learn that during the Nov. 22 meeting of the urban design committee, town staff presented draft urban design guidelines for the Glendale secondary plan.

Now, as long-term readers may recall, I am a strong proponent of design guidelines that are thorough, descriptive and prescriptive. In an Arch-i-



In defining NOTL’s “character” to establish a framework against which all future development may be assessed, Old Town’s Queen Street might serve as the basis of commercial streetscapes. BRIAN MARSHALL

text column published on Aug. 4, 2022 (“Town’s lack of design guidelines needs action now”), I cited the following considerations, noting that guidelines:

“Protect the character of the community by establishing clear, unequivocal criteria for acceptable contextual design.”

“Establish a consistent reference that can be applied across the entire town and equally to all proponents, whether you wish to build a single, stand-alone house or multi-unit development.”

“Serve as a constant touchpoint for design review and the review infrastructure serves to record the rationale for any future modifications to ensure the guidelines remain a ‘living’ standard.”

“Provide a framework that makes everyone’s job easier – whether you’re the owner, architect, builder, town employee or elected representative – while saving time, trouble and money.”

Bluntly, design guidelines are critical and necessary to achieve compatible and integrative development.

In any case, the early draft guidelines presented last week were developed under the joint auspices of

the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Region of Niagara.

The 98-page document presents a draft framework with the express purpose of supporting “the principles and policies of the official plan and the Glendale secondary plan to guide development within the Glendale area, as it is implemented through subdivision, zoning and site plan control.”

“The (guidelines) encourage the design of a complete, effective and sustainable built environment consistent with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s character and vision for the future.”

Then, it concludes: “The (guidelines) provide guidance on design matters that are directly related to ensuring that development projects are of high quality, pedestrian-oriented, interconnected, sensitive to the natural and built environment, and provide adequate public facilities and infrastructure.”

And, I must say, for an early draft, it is an impressive piece of work.

Divided into three primary sections: public realm, private realm and green infrastructure and buildings, the document seeks to provide guidelines

that can be used as assessment criteria for proposed development projects.

In the public realm, the document speaks to the basic physical infrastructure, including the metrics for roads, streetscape elements, existing natural heritage, parks and open spaces, pedestrian pathways, bicycle routes and stormwater management.

I am encouraged and pleased to report the draft guidelines discuss, among other things, discouraging cul de sacs, P-loops and crescents – while endorsing a grid or modified grid street patterns – address the issues of permeability, introduction of bioswales within public right-of-ways and planting continuous rows of canopy street trees on both sides of the road.

Further, there has been a significant effort made to establish integrative measures for pedestrians and cyclists in the context of existing natural heritage and future open/green/park spaces in Glendale’s future developments.

Moving to the private realm, the draft guidelines are equally thorough in addressing low-rise (to three storeys) and mid-rise (to seven storeys) buildings in neighbourhood and mixed-use contexts to establish

visually attractive, walkable and interconnected developments.

This is complemented by an emphasis on landscaping design that reinforces the structure of a given site with a focus on creating a safe, comfortable and animated pedestrian environment.

Finally, the green infrastructure and buildings section is not only forward-looking, but also thoughtful in the direction it provides to ecologically sound and sustainable development in Glendale.

The measures outlined in the guidelines will help to incorporate better building technologies, enhance the future liveability of neighbourhoods and perpetuate the long term practicality of this settlement area; all of which have been sadly missing during the last 70 years of suburbia driven development.

Recognizing that in the space I have available in this column there is no practical way to condense the 98 pages of these draft guidelines without doing serious injustice to the document, I’m going to suggest you read them for yourself (go to pub-notl.escrime-meetings.com/?Year=2023 and scroll down to urban design committee). It is

also worthwhile to watch the meeting video, which you can access at the same URL.

Speaking of which, I completely endorse the position and rationale put forward by committee member Allan Killin – at 43:54 in the video – calling for a straightforward prohibition of highrise (above seven storeys) buildings in Glendale.

Now, given that this is an early draft of these guidelines, I feel obliged to point out a couple of items that, in my opinion, need to be addressed in future iterations of this document.

First, part of the stated intent of the design guidelines is to encourage the design of development “consistent with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s character.” However, the guidelines do not contain any reference definition of this “character.”

Providing reference data – such as existing building forms, building materials, streetscape rhythms, rural/urban/natural interface transitions and so on – will be absolutely vital as a part of the urban design assessment criteria to ensure future development is consistent with NOTL’s character.

Second, consistent with the old saying that “a picture is worth a thousand words” and, moreover, is the strongest subliminal statement one can make, all photographs used in the guidelines must reflect architectural design compatible with that aforementioned “character.”

Show only photos of designs, materials etc. consistent with that character and there is far less risk of having to deal with applications for inappropriate development.

These draft guidelines have huge potential to be a superb tool for the town (and region) but, they need to be top priority for completion ... because we are looking down the barrel of development today.

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



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Cora Long D.D.



Guides' travel goals boosted by **Kinsmen donation**

Dear editor:

Next July, 22 Niagara Pathfinders, Rangers and their leaders plan to take the trip of a lifetime. Thanks to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Kinsmen, that dream is a little bit closer.

To help make that happen, the Kinsmen have presented members of the unit with a cheque for \$1,000.

Youth members previously made a presentation to the club about their travel plans to visit two International Guiding Centres next summer.

The Kinsmen are strong supporters of guiding in NOTL, providing meeting space for Sparks, Embers and Guides in the Kinsmen Scout Hall, and sponsoring youth members to attend the interprovincial LEAP camp in 2019.

While the guiding program is well-known for building skills such as camping and community service, purposeful travel is also an optional part of the program for the older branches.

However, the pandemic put a hold on many youth members' plans and ability



NOTL Kinsmen Ray Hobbs, left, and Ken Slingerland present a \$1,000 cheque to Sophie (Ranger), Shaunna (guider), Daphne (Pathfinder), Samantha (Ranger), Jessie (Ranger), Ollie (Pathfinder), Krystine (guider) and Amanda (guider). SUPPLIED

to participate in this life skill and character-building opportunity – and for many, this is their first opportunity to travel outside Canada.

Over 12 days in July, the group will visit London, Paris, Lucerne, Adelboden, Liechtenstein and Munich, and will experience many cultural, historical and geographical points of interest, including several sites related to the Second World War.

Visiting these places will

help youth to learn about other countries, world history and politics, and how breakdowns in governmental and democratic systems can affect societies.

Youth members will have a voice in selecting and engaging with places that are relevant and of interest to them, with a focus on building life skills such as planning, leadership, independence and exploration of post-secondary education and career opportunities.

Trip participants are taking an active role in researching activities and destinations prior to departure, including similarities and differences to their lives here in Niagara.

In addition, youth will develop a presentation on Canada for sharing at Pax Lodge (in London) and Our Chalet (Adelboden, Switzerland).

At these Guiding World Centres they will meet and learn from other youth

from around the world, which will enable them to experience the sisterhood of global guiding first-hand.

While trip participants are excited and actively working to raise funds for their journey, the cost of such a trip – even travelling economically and with a student tour company – can be prohibitive.

In order to make the trip as accessible as possible, regardless of families' economic circumstances, the

unit hopes to fundraise as much of the cost as possible – a total of \$81,000 for the group.

While this may seem like a challenging target, there are several ways to help these youth achieve their goals – by buying Girl Guide cookies from the unit, or sponsoring a case for donation to social services such as Newark Neighbours.

If you belong to a business or organization, you can also help by providing a space for unit members to sell cookies, or buying cookies to provide to clients or staff as gifts.

If your organization has funds to spare, contributions to the trip are much appreciated, and go directly to subsidizing costs for youth members.

For more information or to purchase cookies, email 1notlpathfinders@gmail.com.

We appreciate the support of our community, including the NOTL Kinsmen, and we can't wait to share tales of our travels in 2024

Megan Gilchrist
NOTL Guides



Notice of Commencement of Terms of Reference & Open House #1 South Landfill Phase 2 Environmental Assessment Walker Environmental Group Inc.

Walker is proposing to develop the next phase of its South Landfill to continue to provide essential waste disposal services to meet the needs of Niagara and surrounding communities. Similar to current operations, South Landfill Phase 2 will include an annual fill rate of 1.1 million tonnes per year and a total capacity of approximately 18 million tonnes over the next 20 years.

To develop Phase 2 of the South Landfill, Walker has initiated an Environmental Assessment, a Provincial planning process under the Environmental Assessment Act, to assess the potential effects of the proposed landfill continuation on the environment and surrounding community.

The Process

This study will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of Ontario Regulation 101/07 which includes the requirement to conduct an individual Environmental Assessment per the Environmental Assessment Act.

The first step of the process is the preparation of a Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference will set out the proponent's framework and work plan for addressing the Environmental Assessment Act requirements when preparing the Environmental Assessment, including such things as the alternatives that

will be considered and the public consultation activities that will be carried out. If approved by the Minister, the Terms of Reference will provide the framework and requirements for the preparation of the Environmental Assessment.

Invitation

Walker invites you to attend an initial public Open House to introduce the project, review and discuss the Environmental Assessment process, and gather feedback:

Open House #1
Thursday, December 14th, 2023
from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Club Italia, Grande Ballroom B, 2525
Montrose Rd, Niagara Falls

Consultation

Members of the public, agencies, Indigenous communities and other interested persons are encouraged to actively participate in the planning process by attending consultation opportunities or contacting staff directly with comments or questions. Consultation opportunities are planned throughout the planning process and will be advertised in local newspapers, on the project website www.southlandfillphase2.com, by direct mail and/or electronic mail (email).



Shown: South Landfill

A virtual, self-guided open house will also be available at www.southlandfillphase2.com from December 15th until January 15th. Your input is valuable, and you are encouraged to submit your comments by mail, email, or phone to the project contact listed, or through the project website.

Darren Fry
Project Director

Walker Environmental Group Inc.
2800 Thorold Townline Rd,
ON L2E 6S4
Phone: 1-866-699-9425
Email: info@southlandfillphase2.com

To be added to the project mailing list, please sign-up at www.southlandfillphase2.com

Museum exhibit explores history of the selfie

Staff
The Lake Report

If you've ever thought it's a thing taking a selfie to share on social media is something new?

Not by a longshot.

From the paintbrush to the smartphone, capturing one's likeness, it would seem, has always been an obsession.

And today, grabbing that selfie to mark a special event, a meeting with a celebrity or just simply documenting your daily life is an activity that many today cannot live without.

A new exhibit at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum called "Strike a Pose: The Art of Self-Obsession" shows how the people of Niagara-on-the-Lake have been documenting themselves for centuries, whether in paint, ink, pencil, film photography or digital pixels.

The exhibit opens this weekend in time for the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-



Shawna Butts, assistant curator at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, marks the upcoming opening of the museum's new exhibit, "Strike a Pose – The Art of Self-Obsession," by taking a selfie. The show runs until next April. SUPPLIED

the-Lake's Holiday House Tour, running Dec. 1 and 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sponsored by NOTL-based Selfie Mode, the exhibit continues through the end of April 2024.

Selfie Mode has provided its Selfie Booth, which will add an interactive element to the exhibit. Visitors are encouraged to take a photo of themselves, which can

then be included in the exhibit.

"We're lucky to have a long history with photography here," said Shawna Butts, the museum's assistant curator.

"Many of the pictures I chose for this exhibit were taken by photographer William Quinn, who had his studio in the family home on Ricardo Street."

NOTL historian Joseph Masters wrote about how locals used to enjoy watching Quinn set up his gear.

"And once he was underneath his camera hood, according to Masters, they'd give him some swift kicks in the rear," Butts said.

Luckily, today's photographers are treated a little more gently.

Before the advent of photography, the only way for people to leave behind a personal legacy was to immortalize themselves in paintings and drawings.

The exhibit will highlight that with early settler portraits, including Mary and Peter Servos, John Crooks and Capt. William Milloy.

As well, the museum showcases its collection of miniatures – handheld portraits that were popular well into the 20th century. One rare image is that of War of 1812 heroine Laura Secord, created several years before her death.

For more information, visit www.notlmuseum.ca.



Volunteers from NOTL Hydro and Newark Neighbours will be collecting donations along the parade route on Dec. 9.

Parade toy drive supports Newark Neighbours

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro has teamed up with Newark Neighbours to make the holidays a bit more magical for those in need.

Hydro will be collecting toy donations during the Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 9.

All toys collected from the drive will be used for a "shopping experience" in which clients of Newark Neighbours can come and select toys off of the shelves for their children.

Cindy Grant, the chair for Newark Neighbours[,] said in previous years they had just accepted wish lists for families, but with a growing need for support, a shopping day will be able to accommodate more kids.

"We will have a nice assortment of toys for families to choose from," Grant said.

Those who wish to donate can bring their toys to the parade and volunteers from NOTL Hydro and Newark Neighbours will collect them as they walk along.

Otherwise, toys can be dropped off at any time to NOTL Hydro.



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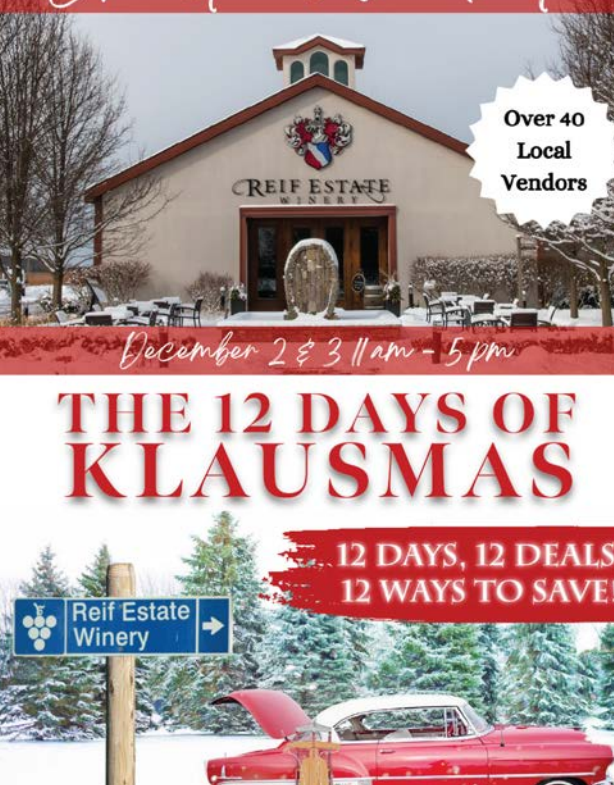
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247 Ricardo Street, NOTL @ holidaymarket.ca

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Events for the Holidays



From farm gear and Santa parades to stepping back in time, there are plenty of ways to get into the spirit of the holidays in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Here's how.

Candlelight Stroll | Friday, Dec. 1

From 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., this hugely popular event will commence for another year, with all proceeds going to charity. The annual walk, organized by the Chamber of Commerce, starts at the courthouse. Candles for the walk can be purchased for \$5 and will be on sale until 8 p.m. Get to Queen Street early for a number of acts leading up to the walk.

McFarland House Heritage Christmas | Friday, Dec. 1 to Sunday, Dec. 3 and Wednesday, Dec. 6 to Sunday, Dec. 10

McFarland House's Heritage Christmas returns again this year, providing guests with an authentic Victorian holiday experience. Traditional decorations and recipes will transport guests to a Christmas past.

Sip, Savor and Shop | Friday, Dec. 1 and Saturday, Dec. 2

St. Mark's Anglican Church hosts Sip, Savor and Shop, a day that gives attendees the opportunity to do just that. A drink tasting from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. will be followed by a lasagna lunch running from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. all while you're able to browse different vendors. No reservations required.

Holiday Market | Friday, Dec. 1 and Saturday, Dec. 2, Dec. 3-10

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre features unique and one-of-a-kind handmade goods for sale during the annual Holiday Market. Opening weekend will feature festive holiday treats. There is no entry fee.

Holiday House Tour | Friday, Dec. 1 and Saturday, Dec. 2

Running from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day, but tickets are selling out quickly. Guests on the Holiday House Tour can visit six uniquely decorated NOTL homes, plus cultural and historic sites. Tickets are \$45, include a complimentary wine tasting and all proceeds go to charity.

Christmas Parade | Saturday, Dec. 9

Starting at 11 a.m. enjoy floats, marching bands and more. The parade will start at the intersection of King and Centre streets in Old Town.

Christmas Sing-a-Long | Saturday, Dec. 9

Take some time out of your busy holiday season to indulge in some classic carols at the Wayside Chapel starting at 3 p.m. The sing-a-long afternoon will take place outdoors, so don't forget to dress accordingly.

A Garrison Christmas | Saturday, Dec. 9 and Sunday, Dec. 10

Stop by Fort George from noon to 4 p.m. to experience Christmas traditions from the early 19th century as the fort will be done up for the holiday season. Hot beverages and treats will be available.

Christmas Tractor Parade | Thursday, Dec. 14

The third annual Christmas Tractor Parade will commence at 6 p.m. along the streets of Virgil. Fifty or more tractors will be decked out in an array of lights and other decorations. The parade is a fundraiser for Team Pillsy, which helps raise money for cancer research.

Carols for Christmas at St. Saviour's | Sunday, Dec. 17

Carols at St. Saviour's Anglican Church in Queenston featuring the Newark Singers will be sure to spread holiday cheer starting at 4 p.m. Freewill donations will benefit St. Saviour's.

Christmas Bake Sale | Thursday, Dec. 21

Cornerstone Community Church's Orchard Campus on Hunter Road will be selling baked goods to the community from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All proceeds benefit Red Roof Retreat.



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: ACTRESS BY ROLE

Ann Perkins on "Parks & Rec" and top cop Angie Tribeca.

Last issue:

Category: "F"OODS

Clue: The name of this sizzling Tex-Mex dish is Spanish for "little strips."

Answer: What are fajitas?

Answered first by: Margie Enns

Also answered correctly (in order) by:
Jane Morris, Bob Wheatley, Bill Hamilton, Susan Hamilton, Margaret Garaughty, Claudia Grimwood, Susan Dewar, Marjory Walker-Barone, Jim Dandy, Wade Durling, Marla Percy, Pam Dowling, Rob Hutchison, Catherine Clarke, Sheila Meloche, Lynda Collet, Sheryl Christensen, Howard Jones, Elaine Landray

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

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NOTL author chosen for crime writers' panel

Staff
The Lake Report

A Niagara-on-the-Lake author has been selected to participate in a panel discussion hosted by the Crime Writers of Canada in Toronto this December.

T. Lawrence Davis, whose debut novel "The Pale Horse" came out last September, will join three other participants – all writers of mystery and thriller stories – for the panel, called "Killing it With Style," to be held at the Toronto Reference Library on Dec. 12.

The group will explore several themes related to crime writing, from creating suspense to character development and writing a series of crime novels featuring the same protagonist.

Davis was a finalist in the 2023 Crime Writers of Awards of Excellence competition.

"The Pale Horse" features an amateur sleuth, the track veterinarian at Woodbine, who is trying to clear the



NOTL author Terry Davis will be a guest at a crime writing panel Dec. 12. SUPPLIED

name of a friend, the prime suspect in a murder, as his wife, the detective leading the investigation, tries to build a case against her.

The other participants in the panel will be Jass Aujla ("Next of Twin"), Madeleine Harris-Callway (short story collections, including "Snake Oil and Other Tales"), Kris Purdy ("Paradise Pending") and

moderator Rosemary McCracken (Pat Tierney mystery series).

Attendees will have an opportunity to talk to the panel members and purchase signed copies of their books at the end of the event, which is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the library, located at 789 Yonge St. in Toronto.

Davis grew up in Quebec

and lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake with his wife Sandra. He previously worked as a journalist and was also managing editor of Canadian Thoroughbred magazine.

For more information on the "Killing It With Style" event, visit Crime Writers of Canada's Facebook site. To learn more about Davis and "The Pale Horse," visit tlawrencedavis.ca.



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- Entitles Niagara-on-the-Lake residents to three hours of free parking in the Town's Heritage District.
- Permits cost \$30.00 and are valid from January 1 to December 31, 2024.
- Permits are available at Town Hall (1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil) or online at www.notl.com.

*Please note that ID is required to prove residency.

Scan the QR Code for more information about Resident Parking Permits:



2024 Dog Licenses

- Annual dog licensing is mandatory in Niagara-on-the-Lake.
- Licenses are valid for a full year after purchase and are available online, by mail or in person at Town Hall (1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil). Dog tags will be mailed to your home address.
- Dog owners can learn more and register for a license online at www.notl.docupet.com.

Scan the QR Code for more information about 2024 Dog Licenses:



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Yellow Door's 'Newsies' is selling out fast

Zahraa Hmood
The Lake Report

The Yellow Door Theatre Project of Niagara-on-the-Lake is back this holiday season with another production brought to you by the talented young performers of the Niagara region.

They'll be hosting productions of "Newsies," the Disney film-turned-Broadway musical, from Dec. 6 to 9 at the Robertson Theatre at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in St. Catharines.

Originally debuting in 1992, "Newsies" was inspired by the newsboys' strike of 1899 in New York City.

The play has won two Tony Awards for Best Original Score, and is known for its most popular songs including "Carrying the Banner," "Seize the Day" and "Santa Fe."

Yellow Door hosted another production at the performing arts centre in St. Catharines this past



Yellow Door performers Diego Reys, Avery Kasper, Catherine Dubois, Lucas Romanelli, Morgan Hilliker and Wren Evans are part of the cast of "Newsies." SUPPLIED

July 15, where a cast of young performers brought the musical "Mary Pop-pins Jr." to life.

Tickets are selling fast.

The matinees at 10 a.m. from Dec. 6 to 8 are already sold out, but tickets are still available for evening

performances at 7:30 p.m. on all four dates, as well the matinee performance on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 1 p.m.

Tickets are \$40 for adults, \$30 for seniors and \$30 for students under age 13.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit fir-

stontariopac.ca and scroll down to "View All Events."

For more information, you can call the performing arts centre at 905-688-0722 (OPAC) or 905-688-5601 x3700.

The venue is at 250 St. Paul St. in St. Catharines.



Organizer Pauline Miller sells a beautiful basket to Donna Seymour, one of the first buyers in the door. Behind them Heinz Probst prepares to sell packages of home-made frozen tourtières and squash soup. JOHN SAYERS

Grace Church market sells out, raises \$10K

John Sayers
Special to The Lake Report

The folks at Grace United Church always try to make their Christmas Market as traditional, as warm, and as affordable as possible.

When you can get a brace of tourtières for only \$12 and quality gift baskets for just a little more than that, you know that you have come to a church sale that's an inflation-fighting heaven.

Doors officially opened at

9 a.m. last Saturday and everything, including Grace's famous jams, jellies and sauces, sold out quickly.

The efforts of all the hard-working volunteers paid off handsomely as the sale raised in excess of \$10,000.

There were also the jams, jellies and sauces for which Grace is famous throughout the community. And no country Christmas Market would be complete without a dollop of knitting and a smidge of crafts.

St. Andrew's Festive Fare brings forth the holiday season

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

For Kathleen Turnbull, a new member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian, the church's Festive Fare on Saturday was the perfect place to promote her new children's book.

She wrote her new book "Laamby's Christmas Story" to tell the story of Jesus' birth through the lens of a loveable lamb.

"The thrust is not to church people who know the story," Turnbull told The Lake Report.

Her goal, she explained, is to share the story with people who otherwise wouldn't hear it – the Festive Fare, in this vein, is attended by people both who attend the church and who don't.

The idea to tell the story through Laamby came from both an emphasis on sheep throughout the bible and Turnbull's real-life experiences with the animal, she added.

"I have four grandchildren who live in Niagara-on-the-Lake and I'm close in heart to four who live in the Yorkshire Dales amongst lots of sheep," she said. "I've been visiting there every year since 2010 and I see all the little 'Laambys' running up the hills."



Barbara Khan and Caroline Montgomery ran the Christmas bazaar during Saturday's Festive Fare. Shoppers could take home a variety of kitschy holiday goods. JULIA SACCO

"Laamby's Christmas Story" is available for purchase on Amazon.

Besides chatting with Turnbull about her latest book, attendees to the Festive Fare could shop for holiday goodies or enjoy a quick meal.

Lynn Lingard, the lead organizer, told The Lake Report that this is the first year Festive Fare has returned since 2018.

With its return, the market had a few new additions. "This Christmas market

is new, we decided to do all Christmas stuff this year," Lingard said.

Homemade jam and baked goods were also available for sale.

Pastor Bernie Skelding said that his first Festive Fare at the church has been a successful way to ring in the holiday season.

"We're trying to make time and space for the community to come to be present and kick off the Advent and Christmas season," he said.

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Fundraiser for rescue group is the **cat's meow**

Richard Hutton
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

In an effort to help the population of cats in town without a place to call home, the members of NOTL Cats Rescue were hard at work in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Saturday, selling everything from baked goods to holiday floral arrangements and wreaths, raising funds to help their furry friends.

It's an ongoing job as the group is constantly being alerted to stray or abandoned cats across the town, said Tanya Rice, a volunteer with the organization.

"We currently have 17 cats and kittens waiting to be adopted," Rice said. "Some are females as young as one year old."

Quite often, Rice said, people will get a cat and let it out thinking they need fresh air. In many cases, those pets have not been spayed or neutered.



NOTL Cats Rescue held its annual Christmas fundraiser on Saturday. From left, Cathy Spence, Erika Buchkowsky, Tanya Rice, Cindy Ohaney and Carol Sheremetta. RICHARD HUTTON

In the case of females, they often wind up abandoned when they are found to be pregnant. Many wind up in the care of NOTL Cats Rescue and that makes fundraisers such as Saturday's event very important to the organization.

"We rely on donations, we rely on fundraisers."

The group stages several fundraisers throughout the year: spring, summer and Christmas. The money raised helps with things such as the cost of cat food, litter and veterinary care.

The group hopes to raise \$5,000 with the Christmas sale.

"This (fundraiser) will see us through the winter," Rice said.

Rice has been with the organization for 20 years and is the rescue's volunteer

and foster co-ordinator. She said that while the cats keep on coming, people willing to foster them are in short supply.

Erika Buchowsky has been with the group since 2013. Her fostering journey began when a stray cat

showed up in her backyard.

"She was pregnant and she had seven baby boys," Buchowsky said. "I was put in touch with NOTL Cats."

She's been with the group since then, fostering cats and kittens until homes can be found for them.

She admitted to being a "foster fail" on more than a few occasions when she has decided to make a feline under her care a permanent part of the family.

In addition to fostering, she helps out with the group's campaigns to help find their cats and kittens a new home.

"I do all the photography and create flyers and posters," she said. "I'll help with the promotion of the cats that we have up for adoption."

A second sale is set for this Saturday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 456 Line 2 in Virgil. More information about NOTL Cats can be found at notlcats.weebly.com or the group's page on Facebook.



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Grape-growing posse are in a league of their own

Richard Hutton
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



The League of Farmers, from left, Marty Werener, Trevor Falk, Mark Lepp and Shawn Spiewak. The group has just released its latest vintage, a 2022 Cabernet Franc. RICHARD HUTTON

For the quartet who make up the League of Famers, the wine industry has been a big part of their lives.

These four men – Shawn Spiewak, Mark Lepp, Trevor Falk and Marty Werner – have a longtime friendship, dating back to when Falk coached the others in minor hockey.

All of them are grape growers, so making their own wine seemed to be the next logical step for their group.

“The four of us all have Cabernet Franc vineyards,” Spiewak said. “I wouldn’t want to speak for the guys but, and I think that we all kind of thought that was the grape that we could showcase for Niagara.”

And that’s exactly what the group has done. Their first release came last year

when they unveiled their 2020 vintage Cab Franc.

It was at the end of a long process, Spiewak said: “Our wines see about 18 months in French oak barrels, so, typically they’re released about 24 months after the actual vintage.”

For Werner, the group’s friendship and shared love of making wine has brought them together like never before.

“Probably the thing that I like the most about the saga is the four of us,” he said. “We all sort of live within

a country block (of each other) and we like to have a reason to get together and hang out.”

In addition to the Cab Franc, the group also released a sparkling rosé this past summer, which combined the Cab Franc

with a Vidal.

“We wanted something where people could enjoy something by the pool in the summertime and just enjoy something at a lower price point that would still showcase Cabernet Franc and us as a group of friends,” Werner said.

For Falk, the group complements each other.

“We all have our strengths and our weaknesses and I think we will just work as a team,” he said. “And that’s exactly what the philosophy was when I coached them in hockey is we’re stronger as a team than we are as individuals.”

“I’m still trying to impress him,” Werner cracked.

Now, the group has released a 2022 Cab Franc. It is available to order from the League of Farmers directly at orders@north-ernwinemerchants.ca and at Barbea Wine & Snack Shop in Niagara-on-the-

Lake and at Archives Wine & Spirits Merchants in St. Catharines. The wine retails for \$42 per 750 ml bottle.

The new wine continues the group’s penchant for producing a small batch of vintages – 1,200 bottles are available – that offers something unique, Lepp said.

“I think the nice thing is that people, they know us and they know that it’s not a wine that you can get at the LCBO or pick up anywhere,” he said. “It’s something that’s a little bit more special.”

In addition to individual bottles of the new vintage, the group has put together gift boxes featuring three bottles of the sparkling rosé, two bottles of the new wine along with a bottle of the 2020 Cab Franc.

The \$200 cost represents a savings of \$10 over what it would cost to purchase the wines individually.

NOTL Gives Back to Newark Neighbours and McMaster Children’s Hospital

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report



The Town of NOTL teamed up with Mac Inc., Revel Realty, the Finest Estates Team and the NOTL Minor Hockey Association to put together NOTL Gives Back. JULIA SACCO

When Revel broker Jessie MacDonald started the NOTL Gives Back charity drive 14 years ago, she was simply doing her part to help out the community.

MacDonald told The Lake Report that she was teaching at the time and came to realize that many families struggle during this time of the year – often not having enough food to eat and clothes to wear – and some couldn’t afford Christmas presents for their young ones.

“I basically wanted to make sure that everybody – all the kids – had a toy Christmas morning,” she said.

Since then, the food, clothing and toy drive has been a holiday staple in the community and returned again on Saturday to collect goods at the Meridian Credit Union Arena.

Collections are currently dispersed between Newark Neighbours and McMaster

Children’s Hospital.

“I have a personal connection (to McMaster) and it’s a good cause,” MacDonald said. “I think it hits home to a lot of people.”

The children’s hospital provided potentially life-saving services for both of MacDonald’s children when she gave birth, she said.

“When I was pregnant, I had a condition which I did not know I had until I underwent an emergency C-section,” MacDonald said.

“I gave birth to two not-

so-healthy children and they made them healthy and – in my opinion – saved their lives.”

Cindy Grant, the director of Newark Neighbours, said the community of NOTL never fails to come out with extreme generosity during these drives.

“This is the second or third time we’ve partnered with the Town of NOTL and NOTL Gives Back and we’re happy to be here,” she said.

Grant said that after

nearly two weeks of food drives around the community, shelves at Newark are well-stocked, but there are some items that they are especially in need of, including coffee and paper towels, tissues and toilet paper.

“It isn’t the first thing that comes to mind, but it’s something that we always need,” Grant said.

Along with the town, Revel Realty, the Fine Estates Team and Team MAC Inc, NOTL Gives Back also teamed up with the NOTL Minor Hockey Association.

Tania Fera-VanGent, the hockey association’s public relations lead, emphasized the importance of having young hockey players assist with collections.

“We want our young hockey players to understand the concept of giving back to the community,” she said.

“That’s the most important thing for the hockey association, to see not only that we’re giving but that they’re learning how to give.”

Queenston choir will make ‘Christmas Wishes’ come true

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

A staple of the holiday season in Niagara-on-the-Lake is returning on Sunday, with a new performance set list and a group of special guests.

The Queenston Women’s Chorus will present its annual Christmas concert at Trillium United Church, titled “Christmas Wishes.”

“We are singing selections about joy, hope and peace,” said Lisa Brillon, the chorus’ founder and conductor.

Some of these songs include favourites such as “I’m Dreaming of a White Christmas,” “Happy Holidays,” “Deck the Halls,” “It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas” and “Carol of the Bells,” which Brillon noted is a Ukrainian traditional carol (it comes from Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych’s choir piece “Shchedryk,” which was

based on traditional folk chants).

The chorus is excited to be performing a selection by Niagara composer Harris Loewen and to showcase a group of young singers and dancers called the Niagara Star Singers who will be joining the chorus as guest performers.

Before their performance on Sunday, the Queenston Women’s Chorus will be performing before Friday’s Candlelight Stroll at 3:45 p.m.

“You’ll hear a sample of our concert if you come out to that,” Brillon said.

The “Christmas Wishes” concert starts at 3:00 p.m., followed by a reception after the show.

Tickets are available at the door at \$20 for adults and \$15 for students. All proceeds go to Newark Neighbours and providing scholarships for classical voice and musical theatre in the community.



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Newcomers group a **launching point** for town leaders

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Seven years ago, Sue Henry moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake, a place where she didn't know anyone – today, she's made a lot of friendships in town and wants to help those who were in her shoes before make connections.

Last Wednesday, social group NOTL Newcomers held a Community Awareness Day at community centre, where other newcomers and NOTLers could come out and explore what the group has to offer them.

Henry thanks the group for her success in making so many connections in town.

"I joined Newcomers and by the end of the year, I was recruited to do the website and the newsletter," she told The Lake Report.

The Newcomers group is helpful in introducing people new to town to its residents and learning more about Niagara-on-the-Lake, she says.

"It's a great way to be involved," she said.

Henry now does newsletters for other various groups and organizations around



Stands at the community centre included groups like the Rotary Club, the Friends of Fort George, NOTL Palliative Care and many more. JULIA SACCO

town, she said.

As part of Newcomers, also leads a lunch group to help 75 members discover more about the surrounding towns around NOTL once a month

"My goal with my group is to drag them around – who can turn down a lunch? – have a nice lunch, go to a nice restaurant," Henry said.

There are plenty of community leaders in town who got their start meeting people at Newcomers, such as Rosemary Laird, who joined in 2021.

Now a member of the NOTL Horticultural Society, the Newcomers helped Laird find her niche in town.

"The number of things

for me to do in the area has grown since joining the Newcomers. There's so much going on that you hear about," Laird said.

Moving to a new place is more difficult as an older person, she said, but groups like Newcomers make the transition a lot smoother.

"When you're younger you've got kids and you're

meeting people through schools but when you're older it's a bit of a challenge," Laird said. "This is a terrific opportunity – it's a safe space."

A former president of the Newcomers, Peggy Hooke, shares this sentiment.

"When you join, you tend to pair up with people who just came in as well, and in

many ways, they become your friends in this community," she said.

Hooke added that through Newcomers, it is easy to find different programs in town that perhaps some new NOTLers would otherwise miss out on.

"Newcomers makes it very easy to get in with the community."



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GROWING TOGETHER

Joanne Young
Columnist

There are many gardening chores to be done before winter sets in, and hopefully you have been checking some of those jobs off your list over the last few weeks.

In my neighbourhood, I think that the last of the leaves are finally down off the trees.

I live on a court and, apparently, on the wrong side of the street, because the leaves (and snow and recycling too) blow around the circle and straight up my driveway.

Because of that, there is no sense in starting to rake up the leaves until they are all down – I guess that I

am going to have to tackle them this week.

I am not in a hurry for winter to arrive, but I am sure that one day soon this beautiful, warm weather will be ending and winter will be upon us.

Here are some helpful tips to help your evergreens make it successfully through the winter:

Make sure that you are not pruning your evergreens at this time of year: you should have stopped any pruning by the beginning of September.

Pruning invigorates new growth and if the new growth has not had enough time to harden off before the cold weather hits, it will be more susceptible to damage during the winter months.

One of things that can affect your evergreens throughout the cold months is winter desiccation.

This is where the foliage is losing more moisture than the roots can replace which can be the case if planted in an area where there is constant high winds.

The best thing that you



Window boxes, wreaths and planters can add a bit of festive charm to your house this season. JOANNE YOUNG

can do for all your evergreens is to make sure that you give them a slow, deep watering just prior to the ground freezing up for the winter.

This is especially true for your broadleaf evergreens such as rhododendrons, hollies and boxwoods.

If the soil around the roots is moist going into the winter, then if we have an early February thaw, the moisture is right there available to the roots.

Do you know that the rhododendron plant has a built-in system to help protect itself against cold windy days?

The pores, out from which they can lose moisture, are located on the underside of the leaves.

So, to protect themselves on cold windy days they roll their leaves under to reduce the moisture lost. The tighter their leaves are rolled, the colder the day is.

People often ask if they must wrap their evergreens with burlap for the winter. The quick answer is no.

If you have planted the evergreens where they are in the proper conditions, there is no need for wrapping it up with burlap.

Why plant an evergreen to enjoy the foliage colour in the winter and then cover it with burlap?

The only time they would need protection is if they are getting constant strong winds, such as at a lake, or if they are located close to a road where they are getting salt spray.

If this is the case, instead of wrapping the entire shrub, consider putting up a barrier just on the side that is receiving the heavy winds or salt.

The best way to create a barrier is to put in a couple of stakes and attach either a couple of layers of burlap between them or a piece of plywood.

If you rap burlap just around the plant itself, snow will get caught in the burlap and can crush foliage or damage branches.

It is always best to wrap

the burlap around stakes and not the plant itself. If you have some plants that are marginally hardy (Zone 7), they may benefit from the protection of burlap and mulching over the roots with shredded leaves.

Another possible winter hazard for pyramidal evergreens, such as emerald cedars and pyramid junipers, is that they can be damaged by heavy, wet snow causing the multi-leaders to split apart.

To prevent this from occurring, some people will tie rope around the entire perimeter of the shrub which does detract from its appearance.

Instead, simply tie together some of the main stems from the inside of the shrub with a stretch tie or with something that will not cut into the wood (e.g. wire through an old piece of hose).

By following the above tips, your evergreens will be better prepared to face another winter.

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

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TEAM OF THE WEEK



The champions: Goalies Quinten Davis and Braden Sawyer up front. Second row: Alex Read (manager), Mackenzie Berg (coach), Josh Dulas, Marco Grusso, Calo Zambito, Eddie Friesen, Lucas Roberts Ramos, Andrew Bayne (injured), Mitchell Olsen, Devon Neudorf (coach) and Garret Kaszycki (coach). Absent: Kyle Juras (trainer). Back row: Billy Pillitteri-Smith, Noah Whyte, Carter Lalonde, Nick Munera, Brandon Falk and Logan Smythe. SUPPLIED

NOTL Wolves U18s win regional Silver Stick

Continued from Front Page

versus the South Muskoka Bears, ranked the number one B team in the OMHA, said head coach Devon Neudorf.

Throughout the tournament, team defence and great goaltending by the tandem of Quinten Davis and Braden Sawyer made the difference, Neudorf said, as the road to the championship was a tough one.

In the semifinal, NOTL came out with a 3-1 win over the Parry Sound Shamrocks, ranked second in the OMHA among B class centres.

Logan Smythe, a defenceman, led the way in the semi by scoring two goals a remarkable 20 seconds apart on one shift in the second period. That put NOTL up 2-0 and in the driver's seat.

Sniper Dylan Price closed it out, adding one of his five tourney goals into an empty net with 27 seconds left.

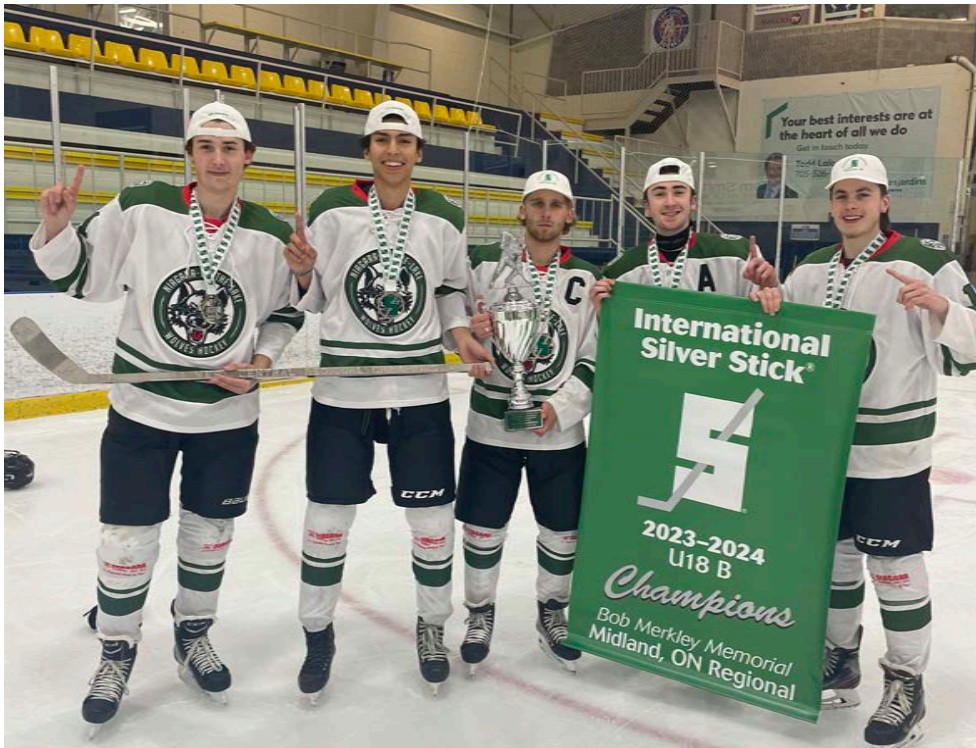
Then, for good measure, NOTL knocked off Muskoka 3-1 in the final to clinch the championship and book their ticket for the Silver Stick championship tournament in Forest, Ont., Jan. 5 to 7.

Defenceman Calo Zambito scored the winner with about four minutes left, on a seeing-eye wrist shot that found the back of the net, Neudorf said.

With 40 seconds left and the Muskoka net empty, Zambito's clearing shot from the NOTL zone found the mark and iced the 3-1 win.

"The defence really led the offence on Sunday," Neudorf said.

And on the offensive side, Price led the tournament in goals and points (5G, 2A for 7 points).



Five members of the NOTL Wolves U18 rep team are in their last year of minor hockey, from left, Logan Smythe, Nick Munera, captain Marco Grusso, assistant captain Lucas Roberts Ramos and Carter Lalonde. SUPPLIED

"He's our leader on offence," Neudorf said. "He really stepped his game up and showed the effort level needed out of everyone else."

Through his example he helped make everyone better, his coach said.

The Wolves didn't let any adversity get them down. "We only trailed for maybe 15 minutes over all five games," Neudorf said.

"We were down in the third against South Muskoka when we tied them on Saturday night. And then they got the first goal on Sunday in the final as well," he said.

In that second matchup, they were only down a goal for three minutes before Price responded for the Wolves.

Neudorf was justifiably proud of his team's performance, noting it's first time a NOTL team has won a Silver Stick since 2010-11.

"The Silver Stick tourna-

ment, other than the OMHA (provincials) is really the most important tournament of the year," he said in an interview.

It's also been a major goal for the team early in the season as the coaching staff of Neudorf and Mackenzie Berg, Kyle Juras, Garret Kaszycki and Alex Read, all young guys without kids on the team, figured the Wolves had a shot at doing well in Midland.

"That's kind of been driven home for the past four to six weeks," he said. "It was kind of circled on the calendar."

Besides everything else they accomplished, Wolves forward Logan Rossi's four assists tied him most assists in the tourney.

Despite being down two players due to injuries and absence, the weekend was just their time for something special, it seemed.

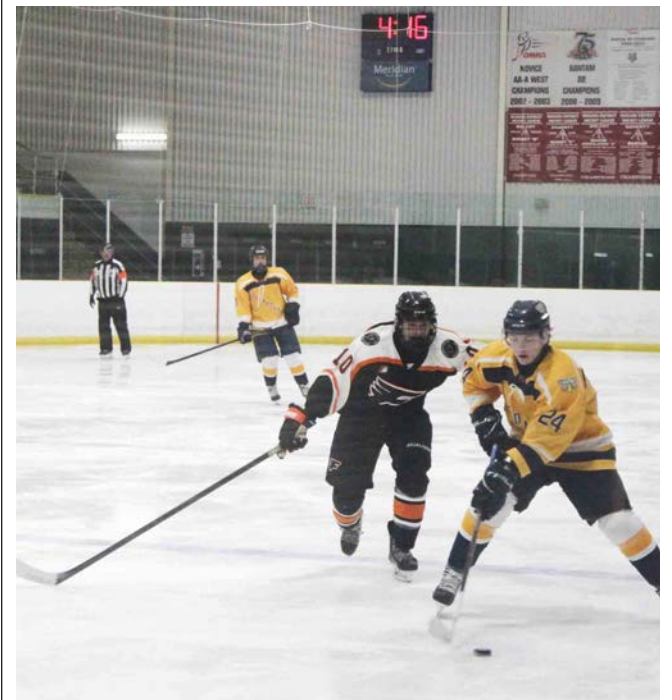
Team captain Marco Grusso was visiting family

in the U.S. for Thanksgiving, so he missed all the team's games on Friday and Saturday.

When he found out they made it to the elimination round on Sunday, he scrambled to catch a flight to Buffalo and then drove 300 kilometres to Midland "in order to be there to support the team, showing his true leadership," Neudorf said.

He played in the final and was able to contribute to the big win.

MOVING UP: With their performance on the weekend, the Wolves improved their ranking by three spots among OMHA B centre teams, rising to #13, according to myhockeyrankings.com. South Muskoka retains the top spot but the Bears' lead is diminished. Parry Sound fell to #7 from second. Lambton Shores and Ennismore now round out the top three.



The Predators are back on home on Friday, Dec. 8 against North York. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Preds earn four points in an up-and-down weekend

Kevan Dowd
The Lake Report

The Jr. A Niagara Predators have moved up a spot in the standings after a weekend of ups and downs that led to four points in three games.

Now in sixth place in the Greater Metro Hockey League's south division, the Predators' first two points of the weekend came as a surprise with news just hours before puck-drop that the second-place Durham Roadrunners would have to forfeit their Friday night game.

The Predators hoped for another two points Saturday but lost 9-4 to the first place North York Renegades, only to finish the weekend on a high with a 5-1 win over the Toronto Flyers at home Sunday afternoon.

"I thought that we dominated the game," Predators head coach said Kevin Taylor afterward.

"Third period we went a little into a lull but I kind of expected that. When it comes to games like this it's just trying to manage the players' ice time, trying to get everyone into the game."

Niagara's Luca Fernandez netted the only goal of the first 20 minutes with just 37 seconds left in the period. They grew the lead to four by the second intermission thanks to Shane Kaplan, a second tally from Fernandez, and Georgy Kholmovsky.

Fernandez completed a hat-trick one minute into the last period it was looking like goalie Mike Mankowski would earn a shutout, but the Flyers notched a marker with 12 minutes to go.

Though Taylor is happy with the victory, he was particularly pleased with his team's on-ice performance.

While some teams opt to run up the score against weaker opponents, "We try not to," he said.

"I put guys in in situations they're not used to, played guys more than they would regularly play because when we go against better teams, we're going to go with our top guys."

Better teams mean opponents like the North York Renegades, who have a nearly perfect record this season.

The Predators have never managed to get the better of them but they have mostly been able to hold their own against a team that sits 20 points ahead of them.

Though the 9-4 final score might indicate otherwise, Saturday night was no exception, with the Predators leading 4-3 after 20 minutes.

In a back-and-forth first period, Fernandez managed to sneak two past North York's Blake Bowler, in addition to tallies from Guy Manco and Nick Savoie.

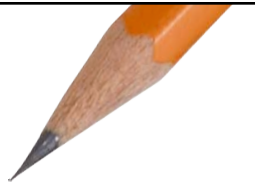
North York tied things up early in the second, took the lead halfway through the game but never really ran away with it until the last period.

Taylor also blames "mental conditioning" for contributing to the loss.

"It's a very fragile team in the aspect that they get a goal or two scored against them and it's tough for them to battle through it and I think it's just that we haven't strung together a lot of wins."

The Predators play just one game in the next week – on the road against the Tottenham Railers. They are back in action at the Meridian Credit Union Arena Friday, Dec. 8 against North York.

Have some fun



Across

- 1. Thinly (8)
- 5. Puny person (6)
- 10. Fan (9)
- 11. Cubist's first name (5)
- 12. All ears (9)
- 13. Collection for public display (4)
- 16. Molar (7)
- 18. "The Naked Gun" star Leslie --- (7)
- 20. Tilling tool (3)
- 21. Escapee (7)
- 22. Well-being (7)
- 23. Auction (4)
- 25. Early years (9)
- 29. Poem about rural life (5)
- 30. Like stormy weather (9)
- 31. Die after seeing this town? (6)
- 32. Unexpected question (4,4)

Down

- 1. Band of cloth (4)
- 2. Frog (9)
- 3. Noticed a wise one, or a North American bird of prey (7,3)
- 4. It used to be spoken in Rome (5)
- 6. Elvis swivelled his (4)
- 7. It's got things to do (2-3)
- 8. Articulates (10)
- 9. Hot off the press (5-3)
- 14. Belligerence (10)
- 15. His athlete exercised in the best condition (10)
- 17. Pulsating (8)
- 19. Never-ending TV series (4,5)
- 24. Hoard (3,2)
- 26. Stretchy clothing material (5)
- 27. Balm ingredient (4)
- 28. Web page language (1,1,1,1)

Crossword Puzzle

1		2		3		4		5	6		7		8
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Last issue's answers

1	R	I	S	K	S	4	T	V	5	C	A	M	E	R	A	S
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				8			5
4			3	7	8		



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The battle to keep up with **cancer and viruses**



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Columnist

Artificial intelligence seems to be taking over the world these days, what with repeated scary predictions in media, online and in science and medicine journals, where up to 10 per cent of the articles are about some facet of AI.

What AI is really good at is handling and identifying patterns in mounds of data to identify, for example, a specific person and even something of their mood from their gestures, voice and face.

Or, in the world of biochemistry, AI is proving to be a powerful tool for identifying patterns in the sequence of hundreds, even thousands of amino acids in proteins and hence the shapes and functions of those proteins.

Given that those proteins were created from DNA and RNA blueprints, mutant versions of either can cause trouble by creating proteins better able to evade the body's natural defences or drugs in the case of cancers, or bacterial and viral infections.

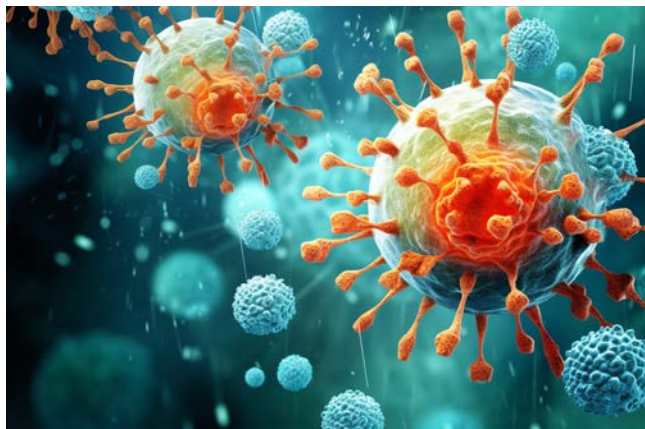
The more malignant the cancer, the more mutations are likely to be found. Cancer cells, especially the really malignant ones, are prime examples of evolution on the fast track.

The more cell divisions, the more mutations, the greater the chance that one or more mutants will prove capable of overwhelming the body's natural defences and any treatment.

That's why cancers such as glioblastoma multiforme, the most malignant of all brain tumours, is next to impossible, to treat. The five-year survival rate is about 10 per cent.

Genomic studies of this cancer exhibit different mutant versions of genes in different regions of the affected brain.

Mutations are a big problem with some bacte-



rial infections that manage to mutate their way around antibiotics. And then there's the COVID-19 virus, which has continued to mutate for years.

Most of COVID's mutant versions cause no trouble, but some – as we witnessed during the pandemic – made some variants far more catchable, some more lethal and yet others found their way around protections offered by earlier vaccines.

And much to our chagrin, we've also learned that vaccine protection lasts only six months or so before boosters or updated shots are needed.

The problem is COVID, like other viral infections,

has billions of human hosts (and nature's other creatures) which can harbour the virus, leaving it free to mutate.

Updating mRNA vaccines has helped, but those versions are already old news and don't take account of potential future mutant threats.

That's where AI comes in. Given enough data about evolutionary changes in the COVID genome and spike protein collected over the last four years from around the world, it should be possible for AI to predict possible new variants before they take place and identify which ones are most likely to cause significant clinical outbreaks.

That would make it possible to design mRNA vaccines that are based not only on yesterday's variants but also some future variants. That way, we stay ahead of the virus, instead of a step behind.

Fortunately, unlike other vaccines, mRNA vaccines such as Moderna and Pfizer are much easier to modify and produce quickly.

The one major problem with current mRNA vaccines is that protection doesn't last long.

This was apparent as early as 2021 in Israel, where the evidence suggested boosters were necessary in as little as six months following the first shot. The reluctance of so many to continue boosters compounds the problem.

There is another solution: develop a universal vaccine based on all prior variants of SARS-CoV-2 and selected closely related viruses, including some in animals in close contact with humans.

The U.S. National Institutes of Health highly recommended this strategy twice before, as did the now-retired Dr. Anthony

Fauci, but it died for lack of funding and in 2020, the pressing need to get the mRNA vaccines as early as possible in the pandemic.

This year, a Nobel Prize was awarded to two scientists, Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman, who overcame repeated funding and other obstacles to put mRNA technology on a solid foundation, without which we would not have had two highly effective mRNA vaccines within a year of the start of the pandemic.

But the work isn't over to create more effective, longer-lasting versions of the mRNA vaccines for COVID – and maybe for the flu and even the common cold.

Remember to get your flu shot and updated COVID shot soon, before the Christmas rush. For those 60-plus, consider getting the respiratory syncytial virus shot, though for now that requires a script and a charge.

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

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EXPLORING HISTORY WITH NOTL MUSEUM



King and Queen streets, circa 1910

This photograph shows the popular heritage district intersection before the beloved cenotaph was installed. The store to the left is Connolly's. The signage indicates that it was for jewellery and watch repairs, but Connolly's was also a general store up till 1961. Fred Connolly once recalled that there was china for sale on one side. His uncle's store was the first in the area to sell English bone china. The other side, oddly enough, was the ice cream parlour where you could buy cold treats as well as hot dogs. Note the dirt roads with horse-drawn carriages parked along the edges. The railway can be seen along the lower part of the photograph with a wooden walkway crossing King Street. The large brick building to the right is known as Rowley's block, which was owned by Fanny Rowley, a descendant of a freedom seeker.

Comes in threes: **Triple ramblings** heading toward Christmas



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
Columnist

Do Ross's Ramblings focus too often on the Olde Town? At the risk of over-rambling, this week I will touch on three diverse subjects.

Firstly, a somewhat high level (for me) discussion of housing types and variety in our beloved Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Then, observations on a colourful cultural event at the NOTL Community Centre last Sunday, and ending with a brief note on the TV news.

Full disclosure: My late sister Pat Malicki of Windsor was the president of the Architectural Conservancy

of Ontario for five years, and was an early promoter of Open Doors Ontario. A passionate building-hugger, without a doubt.

It is obvious that certain historical types of housing are loved and valued by both residents and visitors. They are most often in our heritage district and often built right to the sidewalk.

Look at the three historic attached dwellings at 155-119 Johnson St: more than enough square footage and within a short walk of Queen Street and the shops.

Perfect and so cozy for our town and so many people stop to admire this building and other buildings that cuddle up to the sidewalks.

I find it quite sad that this type of housing would not be allowed to be built under our current zoning regulations.

Our ancestors didn't need a front lawn to cut on Saturday morning. Rather, they needed an area behind the house for a garden. Not petunias and gladiolas, but vegetables and fruits.



As the baby shower celebration rages on at the community centre, Keta Patel proudly carries young Rudra. ROSS ROBINSON

A chicken or two to lay eggs, a cow tied up for milk and, for the fortunate, a horse to get them to work, church and school.

And let's not forget the very necessary outhouse, as indoor plumbing was not available to the masses until about 100 years ago.

A rope between the house and the outhouse, so we wouldn't get lost and freeze to death during a blizzard in winter: Brrrrr. It happened more than once in my hometown of Virginiatown, just east of Kirkland Lake.

For municipal governments today, land is a finite resource. NOTL's 139.2 square kilometres must be planned and developed to be as productive and valuable as possible.

Most modern towns enforce zoning that only allows the building of car centric suburban sprawl. Houses are spread out from each other, with large front and back yards, wide driveways and wide streets.

This zoning separates residential homes from commercial businesses, schools and churches.

Minimum front yard setback, maximum lot coverage, maximum width of garage face. Riveting reading, to be sure.

What will the near future hold for us? Intensification, townhouses, condos and apartments. More residents to share the expenses of infrastructure and amenities.

How exciting, and not new stuff. We will be returning to old stuff. Exciting times indeed, for the open-minded and forward-thinking.

And just last Sunday at

our wonderful and well-used community centre, I happened upon a baby shower organized by the Patel family. Who has all the fun?

They brought their own excellent sound system, colourful lights and balloon decorations.

Beautiful ladies in effulgent sarees, handsome men in multi-floral printed kurtas and kids of all ages in colourful clothing. Flowers, elegantly prepared food dishes and so many proud and beaming smiles.

Families from Niagara and the Greater Toronto Area celebrating the arrival of a new Canadian, catching up on the news, and enthusiastically enjoying each other's company.

They were genuinely happy to welcome me as a guest, just passing by on my way to our awesome Public Library to grab a book or two from the book sale.

And now, let's return to our current lives in North America. Kind of weird and sad in some ways.

I flicked through the TV

channels and watched a stop-and-start, chemically enhanced NFL game. The Buffalo Bills versus the Philadelphia Eagles.

I didn't understand all the gibberish about "over under" and "prop bets" and I find it sad that blinking electronic signage have to instruct fans to "make some noise."

Just a question, but if the Buffalo Bills ever left Buffalo, what would everybody in western New York state wear?

Where is our culture heading? NASCAR, WWF in the bloody octagon, and in 2028, Olympic Games, Mixed Offshore Rowing, at a 1,500 metre distance?

As my day wound down, the evening news featured three consecutive segments where the Global TV anchor warned us: "This next story may contain images that are distressing to some viewers."

What are we going to do to right this sad and sinking ship we call our society?

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



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Obituaries

Sheila Gayman



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Sheila Kathleen Gayman, 68, of Virgil on November 26, 2023 in St. Catharines, Ontario.

Sheila was born in Hamilton, Ontario on January 24, 1955 to James Murray Gayman, and Jean (née Bradshaw). Sheila was an active and respected member of the community, a quality instilled by her parents.

Sheila was a passionate sports fan and player, a passion cultivated by her father, an accomplished athlete, medaled pole-vaulter, and Head of Phys-ed for many years at Niagara District Secondary School. At the age of 2, Sheila started attending the basketball and football games her father coached. Later he would teach her golf and tennis. Warmer weather would find Sheila and her brother Tim setting up hay bales in the Commons across from their home, so that their father could practice pole vaulting as well as teach the neighbourhood kids.

Music played a vital role in Sheila's life. Early inspiration from her father's love of Swing music coupled with her mother's love of musicals, meant that music found Sheila early. In Grade 1, a chance encounter with a piano showed that she could play by ear, and so she was quickly enrolled in lessons. She would extend her talents to the ukulele in elementary school and later the guitar. Sheila would share her musical talents at many social events, including family reunions and wonderful gatherings with friends and family at her cottage in Lowbanks on Lake Erie.

In 1973, Sheila graduated from NDSS, and enrolled at Brock University to study Phys-ed. During the summers Sheila worked in Jasper, skiing in the daytime and waitressing at night; one of her fondest memories was of her final summer when she bought a royal blue Datsun she nicknamed "Bluebell" and drove out west.

That same year, an opportunity from a friend found her a part-time cashier job at the LCBO in Niagara-on-the-Lake. This part-time role would later blossom into a lengthy career with the LCBO as a winery auditor.

In the early '80s Sheila paired her love of tennis and sense of community by joining the Niagara Tennis Club. In 1984 she served as club president which would be a crucial time for the future of the club and tennis facilities in NOTL. The town was in the process of preparing a Leisure Master Plan, and soliciting input. On behalf of the club, Sheila made the case that the club was prepared to work hand in hand with the town for more modern tennis facilities, and make it financially viable.

Over the course of the next two years, despite many moving targets, ambitious fundraising efforts and the tireless work of the committee, the now NOTL Tennis Association would ultimately find its home in Memorial Park in July 1986. She handed the presidential title over that year, but would serve as club treasurer from 1989 to 2001.

In 2008, Sheila would again answer the call to support her community. A review by the District School Board of Niagara trustees determined that Niagara District Secondary School was no longer a viable institution, and would be shut down at the end of the 2009 school year. As part of the executive of 'The Friends of NDSS' group, Sheila tirelessly advocated, fundraised and supported the proposal to keep NDSS alive. Despite the group's efforts, NDSS would close in 2010 after 53 years of Trojan spirit in the community.

Throughout her entire life, Sheila was an insatiable traveller; if she wasn't packing or unpacking a suitcase, she was planning her next trip. As a child, many summers were spent camping with her mother, Jean and brother Tim, on Lake Huron or Algonquin Park, near where her father was running Cadet camps.

Later in life, yearly extended-family vacations to Panama City Beach, FL, took her to warmer weather, and then to Sedona, AZ, which became one of her favourite places to visit. Sheila was a fastidious planner, a quality inherited from her mother, Jean. She planned many incredible trips over the years with her friends. A once in a lifetime trip in 2014 found her travelling with her 'high school gang' of friends to Europe, visiting Bonnieux, France and Passignana sul Trasimeno in Italy to celebrate their milestone birthdays. A highly memorable trip that she looked back on fondly.

In 2015, Sheila retired from the LCBO after 42 years. Her initial part-time cashier role had evolved into her becoming the LCBO's first female winery auditor. Her professionalism, precision and warmth was well respected by the wine producers, big and small, that she visited across Ontario.

Sheila leaned into her retirement, continuing to embrace her love of travel, sports and community. She golfed regularly, including as a member of the Monday night women's league. Closer to home, she served many years as her condo association's President, and on the committee for the Sports Hall of Fame. Sheila also spent a number of years driving for the Niagara Cancer Society, and Meals on Wheels.

In June 2021 an initial asthma diagnosis revealed that Sheila had stage 4 lung cancer that had spread to her brain and bones. Despite this diagnosis, her "don't cross the bridge until you come to it, or you'll pay the toll twice" philosophy, a mantra of her mother's, would give her the resilience she needed to undergo treatment. Over the next few years, her strength, resilience, and perhaps a bit of Uncle Percy's fiery energy, saw Sheila persevere beyond expectation.

On November 26, 2023 Sheila passed away peacefully at Hospice Niagara with her brother at her side.

Sheila is survived by her brother Tim (Lillian), nephews Andrew (Joseph) and Adam (Megan), great-nephew Teo, and great-niece Chloe.

Sheila was better known as "Auntie Sheila" to many beyond her family, in particular Andrea, Alli, Emma, Jack, and Bo, a role that she embraced with endless kindness, love, and generosity. She was loved by all that were fortunate enough to cross her path in life and she will truly be missed.

Sheila's family wishes to thank her community of support, including her friends, the Walker Family Cancer Centre, Home and Community Care Support Services of Niagara, and the wonderful team at Hospice Niagara.

A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, December 17th at Ravine Winery, 1366 York St, St. Davids. Guests will be welcomed from 1 - 4 p.m. with a tribute at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, kindly consider a donation to the Walker Family Cancer Centre or to Hospice Niagara in Sheila's name.

Ingrid Reimer



Reimer, Ingrid Anna Edith (nee Rahn) - It is with great sadness that we announce that our mother, Ingrid Reimer passed away peacefully at the Niagara Health Hospital in St. Catharines on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at the age of 93. She is survived by her daughters Marlene (Arthur) Moyer and Doris (Kelly) Kennedy. Beloved grandmother

of Krista, Laura, Karen, Lisa (Nick), Sean (Sheida) and Robert (Brandy). Precious great grandmother to Abigail and William. She is also survived by brother Manfred (Maria) Rahn. Ingrid is predeceased by her husband Gerhard, daughter Evelyn and son-in-law Jim. She is also predeceased by brothers Werner and Guenther Rahn. Mom was born in Goldau, Kreis Rosenberg, West Prussia and immigrated to Canada in 1950. She and dad settled in Niagara and made their life farming for which we are forever grateful.

As per Mom's wishes, a small, private family service has taken place.

The family would also like to extend their appreciation to the nurses, caregivers and doctors at the St. Catharines Niagara Health Hospital. Online condolences at www.tallmanfuneralhomes.ca



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Kevin lives, works, and plays in Niagara-on-the-Lake, is a member of the local Rotary Club, and volunteers at Niagara PumpHouse. Call to discuss the market or just to say hello.

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