



Remembrance Day | Pages 4-7

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November 9, 2023

Princess Sophie visits Niagara-on-the-Lake during royal tour

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake got the royal treatment on Saturday.

Princess Sophie, the Duchess of Edinburgh,

spent a day in town, touring a winery and attending a gala dinner at the Queen's Landing Hotel.

The large formal dinner for nearly 300 people, with a guest list of who's who from around the region,

was a fundraiser for the Lincoln & Wellington Regiment, of which the princess is colonel-in-chief.

The event also marked the culmination of the Duchess of Edinburgh

Cup – a military skills competition between Canadian and British soldiers that was hosted in Niagara earlier in the day.

It was the first time the competition was held in Canada and this year the

Niagara regiment came out the winner.

Princess Sophie, wife of the King's youngest brother, Edward, toured Inniskillin Winery earlier on Saturday.

Winemaker Nick Gizuk,

who led the tour and a wine tasting, told The Lake Report, "I was impressed by her wine knowledge and she asked some great questions about harvest and

Continued on Page 16

Ross's Ramblings

A positive day in the world of oncology. Hurray!

Ross Robinson
Columnist

Until four months ago, I never imagined I would hear my name and the noun cancer in the same sentence.

I won't be melodramatic, but the numbing sound of those words from Dr. Monica Bertolo back in June forced me to think more deeply than I normally do. That's not saying much, of course.

She is a dermatologist, specializing in skin disorders. Her team operates a very efficient office on Welland Avenue in St. Catharines.

I will attempt to trace my recent cancer pathway. My mind tends to wander and I tend to ramble when expressing my ideas. I promise not to use big words, or get overly sentimental.

Continued on Page 22

Residents vocal about hotel plan



Glendale resident Lynn McDonough is angry that she may lose her sense of privacy if she is forced to live behind a hotel. EVAN LOREE

Evan Loree | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

No torches, no pitchforks, but residents came to council mad all the same on Tuesday night.

A proposed hotel and condominium has enflamed the passions of a few Niagara-on-the-

Lake residents who live near the site on York Road in Glendale.

Lynn McDonough, who resides on Queenston Road, said she was "absolutely furious" to see the plans.

"They have zero consideration

for the residents who live right behind that building," she said.

And neighbour Monty Slingerland said the proposal was a "monstrosity" and "crazy."

The proposal from NOTL restaurateur Bob Mavridis consists

of a 48-metre tall condo tower, a 36-metre tall hotel, two smaller hotel blocks, each 10.5 metres tall, and a one-storey fast-food restaurant.

Continued on Page 3

'A great burden has been lifted': Ashley Simpson's father

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

The past seven years have been a rollercoaster of emotions for the Simpson family of Niagara-on-the-Lake – a rollercoaster that may

finally be coming to an end.

Derek Favell has pleaded guilty to a second-degree murder charge in the disappearance and death of Ashley Simpson.

Simpson vanished in April 2016 and was miss-

ing for five years until her remains were found in a remote area of British Columbia in 2021.

Favell, her boyfriend, pleaded guilty last week to the charges, marking the beginning of the end of a

long road to justice.

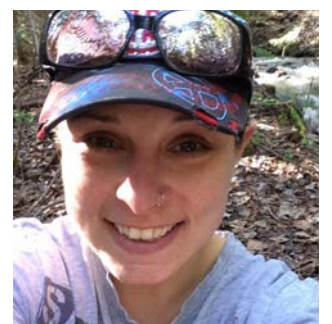
"I myself feel a great burden has been lifted off of my shoulders," Ashley's father, John Simpson, told The Lake Report.

"We've gotten the closure we want. We got the justice

we want," Simpson said.

"The only other thing we need now is to go forward with the sentencing and make sure that he gets his just rewards."

Continued on Page 13



Ashley Simpson.

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Community organizations ask town for more in 2024 budget

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



Library board chair Daryl Novak, left, and CEO Cathy Simpson need more money from the town this year and warn that they could be asking for a lot more next year. EVAN LOREE

Budget deliberations continue for Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors, who heard Tuesday morning that some of the town's community partners need more money.

Representatives from six different community groups that work closely with the town asked council to make room in the 2024 budget to support them.

Most were asking more for 2024 than they did for 2023.

NIAGARA DISTRICT AIRPORT

Dan Pilon, the president of Niagara District Airport, is asking the town for \$96,774 this year, up from \$64,726, which he sought in the 2023 budget talks in February.

It is a far cry from what he's asked of the airport's other municipal partners, Niagara Falls (\$478,669) and St. Catharines (\$693,557).

Pilon said \$39,580 of the requested \$96,774 was for the airport's daily operations and \$57,194 for capital projects.

While he said there has been a small increase to the airport's operational costs, it's capital costs are a different story.

If the request is granted, the town will be forking out \$30,884 more than the \$26,310 it contributed to the airport's capital expenses for 2023.

"Airports are, by their very nature, a capital-intensive business," Pilon said.

The airport needs to start replacing some of its aging

items, including a \$280,000 snow plow that he said is no longer safe.

Coun. Gary Burroughs wondered if the airport was looking to acquire a used snow plow from another town or airport.

Pilon said the airport is over-spending in the operations department by relying on used equipment.

"We've carried more assets than we've needed because we knew pretty much at any given time at least one of them would not be operational," he said.

"We're charting a different path here," Pilon added.

TOURISM NOTL and CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minerva Ward, the president of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce spoke twice – on behalf of the chamber and Tourism NOTL.

The Chamber of Commerce, which promotes and supports town businesses in exchange for membership fees, and Tourism Niagara-

on-the-Lake, which markets the town to visitors, are now two distinct legal identities, Ward said.

As the captains of both ships, Ward was asking the town to budget \$131,100 for Tourism NOTL and \$21,000 for the chamber in the budget.

She had asked for \$19,000 for the chamber in 2023.

The \$2,000 difference will be used to help pay for the annual Candlelight Stroll, organized by the chamber.

"This year, the Candlelight Stroll is even more expensive to put on," she said, noting that this year the chamber has to pay for security to block off the roads. In previous years that was handled by the region.

Ward's ask for Tourism NOTL is up from \$123,507 in 2023, a difference of almost \$7,500.

The difference comes from increased wages for Ward's staff and better training for Tourism Niaga-

ra-on-the-Lake's volunteer ambassadors, who provide information to tourists.

NOTL PUBLIC LIBRARY

The town may also be budgeting a bit more for the library in 2024.

And its leaders warn that the library might be coming back with a bigger request for the 2025 budget.

Board chair Daryl Novak said the library, much like the town, is planning for the "proposed expansion of population in our communities."

Coun. Wendy Cheropita commented that, "With the immense development that will go on in Glendale over the next 10 to 15 years, that will definitely be top of mind."

But Novak said NOTL might not need to build another library to meet the demand.

One option is to share library facilities with Niagara College in Glendale.

Though the two would have distinct collections

and it would solve the need to construct an additional building for the town's library services.

For 2024, Novak and library CEO Cathy Simpson asked the town to budget \$886,461 for the library, almost \$64,000 more than the \$822,746 the town granted in 2023.

The change represents almost an eight per cent increase.

Much of this money would be used to cover the cost of rising wages for staff, which Simpson said is the library's biggest cost.

Its labour expenses are up about 10 per cent from 2023.

According to Novak's presentation, the library will be spending \$756,594 on staff, about \$68,000 more than the \$687,923 it spent in 2023.

"We feel it's really critical to be able to add 12 staff hours to extend our off-site programs and services," said Novak.

"Community use of the library is rebounding in 2023 after the pandemic," Simpson added.

NIAGARA COLLEGE

While Niagara College continues to grow, its budget request from the town remains the same.

Gord Arbeau, the college's vice-president of advancement, said the school is looking for a \$20,000 grant to support its growth.

"We have record enrolment on both campuses," said Arbeau.

The \$20,000 will go toward the college's teaching greenhouse, which he said is being renovated.

New student housing is also on the college's horizon, he said.

"We've committed by the end of 2024, to break ground on expanded student housing on both campuses."

The college would be adding up to 100 beds in Niagara-on-the-Lake to support student housing, he said.

The school plans to expand its student centre in NOTL in the next seven years, he said.

The town has invested \$380,000 in the college since 1995.

NOTL MUSEUM

Sarah Kaufman, the managing director of the NOTL Museum, is seeking a six per cent increase to help cover the museum's maintenance costs.

Kaufman asked for \$297,934, up from almost \$281,000 in 2023.

While funding for the museum in 2023 was only three per cent higher than it was in 2022, Kaufman said the museum had access to COVID relief funds at the time.

This is no longer the case.

Kaufman told council the museum is the most poorly funded museum in the region, despite the town having some of the richest history.

"I'm the one who's fixing everything," she told council.

She hopes to use the extra money for a part-time maintenance person.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa suggested the town could share its maintenance staff with the museum to help keep costs down.

Other costs attributed to the proposed \$297,934 grant include office supplies, museum marketing, collection management and museum activities.

Town survey finds residents feel municipal staff are 'friendly and helpful'

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake gets a gold star for its customer service.

Staff improved their overall service rating by 34 percentage points between 2021 and 2023, says chief administrator Marnie Cluckie.

That's an overall service satisfaction rating of 86 per cent, up from 52 per cent almost three years ago.

Coun. Erwin Wiens said the improvement was huge given the number of calls staff get that have nothing to do with town business.

He also noted good people skills are especially important because of how often staff receive calls

from upset residents.

Lauren Kruitbosch, the manager of customer service, presented the results of a survey to council Oct. 24, which showed marked improvement in the town's customer service department since it first surveyed the town in 2021.

The survey was filled out by 267 people, more than twice the number who

responded to the first survey in 2021.

Surveyed residents are 17 per cent more likely than they were in 2021 to describe staff friendliness as "good" or "excellent."

Kruitbosch said they received one comment in this year's survey saying, "Your team is so friendly and helpful."

That is what the depart-

ment is striving for, she said.

The town has provided customer service training across departments in an effort to improve the public's interactions with town staff, she added.

Another improvement spearheaded by the customer service department was the town's updated website, which went live summer 2022.

Kruitbosch said it was clear from survey results in 2021 that the town needed a new website.

The town is also receiving many more after-hours phone calls and might need to increase customer service hours to meet the need, she said.

"Our aim is to create a community that is known for exceptional customer experience."



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Glendale hotel plan **infuriates** residents

Continued from Front Page

With 77 metres between them, the site is “significantly buffered” from the nearest home, said Max Fedchyshak, of NPG Planning Solutions. His firm was hired by Mavridis.

The proposed condos would diversify the housing stock in Glendale, which is mostly made up of low-density, single-family subdivisions, Fedchyshak said.

Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Glendale secondary plan, which the town is currently updating, would zone the area between York and Queenston roads for mixed-use projects like this one, he added.

The plan also envisions a 12-storey building south of the proposed condo and hotel, he said.

The town has enough hotels, Slingerland said.

“We’d rather have a subdivision in there,” he added.

His wife, Helen Slingerland, indicated that demand may not be high enough for hotel accommodations – she said the existing hotels in the area are “never full” with guests.

The site sits between the Hilton Garden Inn hotel to the east, commercial buildings to the west and houses to the north.

The development has been designed with the neighbours’ sensitivities in mind, said Michael Allen, of ACK Architects.

He told council the hotel on the site would all be facing York Road, away from the houses to the north and toward existing commercial properties in the area.

Allen also said he felt it was “very important to position the condominium north to south” and direct viewpoints to and from the site to the east and west.

McDonough, however, said the proposed condo would invade her privacy.

“What do you want me to do, keep all my curtains closed? 24 hours a day? I can’t look out my bloody windows because I see 400 eyes staring at me?” she asked.

“I can’t go in my own backyard? Come on.” she said.

Brenda Green, also “furi-



Top: Brenda Green says the proposed development could cause flooding on her property. EVAN LOREE Bottom: The proposed hotels and condos along York Road will bring 216 residential units and 165 hotel rooms to the neighbourhood. SOURCED

“What do you want me to do, keep all my curtains closed? 24 hours a day? I can’t look out my bloody windows because I see 400 eyes staring at me?”

LYNN McDONOUGH
GLENDALE RESIDENT

ous,” challenged councillors when she said they too would be “passionate” if someone “stuck 150 to 300 windows in your backyard.” “You’re gonna chase me out of somewhere I’ve been for 40 years and I’m supposed to like any of you?” she said.

There are a lot of traffic issues in the area caused by an abundance of diesel trucks using the road, Helen

Slingerland added.

“We have tractor-trailers coming out the wazoo,” she said. “It’s so crowded you can’t get around them half the time.”

The addition of the condos and hotels would worsen the situation, she said.

Allen said up to 77 per cent of the site would be kept for landscaping, but Green still worried the

loss of grass would worsen existing flooding problems on her property.

As Green grew louder, Coun. Sandra O’Connor, who chaired the meeting, interjected to say the town is aware of shortfalls with stormwater management infrastructure and would work with residents on a solution.

“You better,” Green said in response, “because I’m gonna come at you with everything I can get.”

No decision on the proposed development had been made, O’Connor said.

Green said she did not see a future where council decided in favour of the few residents who live near the area.

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Veterans Dinner honours NOTLers who served

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Every year before Remembrance Day, Royal Canadian Legion branch 124 hosts a veterans dinner to honour those who from the community who have served.

Sunday's dinner was no exception, with the upper floor of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion filled with veterans and their friends and families.

The meal was free to all veterans as well as any caregivers who attended with them.

For all others, it was \$20, which was simply to cover the cost of the meal.

Brad Kempston was one of the many veterans in attendance, celebrating more than 50 years in affiliation with Legions across Canada.

Branch 124 president Al Howse called on Kempston to cut the cake before serving dessert to the guests.

Kempston, who joined



Legion president Al Howse requested member Brad Kempston cut the cake in honour of his 50 years with the organization. JULIA SACCO

the armed forces militia in 1966, joined his first Legion in October 1969.

"I joined because if you're away on courses in the military, you could always go to the Legion and you'd be welcomed and well-received," he told The Lake Report.

Kempston, whose father was president of their home branch in Mitchell, Ont., was a member of various

branches across Canada before he landed in Niagara-on-the-Lake 19 years ago.

"This branch is down to Earth. There's a mixture of people in there," Kempston said.

"We've got guys who are blue collar and white collar. Sure, we've got our quarrels but at the end of the day everybody rolls up their sleeves and participates."

The Legion supports multiple causes in the community – one of the most important to Kempston is helping homeless veterans.

"We donate a substantial amount to that as well as to veterans in care homes," he said.

Kempston urges everyone to support this year's poppy campaign, which he assists with every year.



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TODAY WE

A poem of Remembrance

Dr. William Brown
The Lake Report

This is based on Michael Winter's, "Lest We Forget: Walking with the dead," about the slaughter of the Newfoundland Regiment at Beaumont-Hamel. His piece appeared in the National Post, Nov. 8, 2014, .

The poem was also based on what my aunt shared with me of her husband's story about his horrific experience in the Battle of the Somme, which he related to her when he was recuperating on leave in the U.K.

After he returned to France, he was killed, as were so many of his friends, in battles where there were no victors, Allied or German – just death. The poem is set early in the war when everyone was keen to enlist and few knew what to expect.

MOST OFTEN

We were boys from farms, villages and towns,
from Gaspé to Victoria, knit with kin and friends,
eager to get there, not miss out on this war,
for King and country,
we brothers and friends.
Too stunned to feel the blast or the bullet,
in hundreds, we fell,
whole regiments and more.
Some drowned in the ocean,
others killed in the sky.
And as we hung on barbed wire,
it wasn't to God, King or country we cried.
But to our last breath and heartbeat,
to our mothers we cried,
till finally – we died.
Now long silent beneath rich farms we lay,
or in deep oceans – far from our homes.
A few bones, brass buttons and even some lead.
That's all that's left of the spring in our step.
What would we, the dead, now say to you, the living?
Most often – it would be about lost brothers and friends.
Amen to those veterans to whom we owe so much.

Wear a poppy, young veteran urges NOTLers

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

For Glenda Hall, the military has become an intrinsic part of her entire life.

When she originally joined in 1991 in Cape Breton, Hall's goal was adventure.

"I grew up in a coal mining town and there wasn't a lot of money for school," she said.

"So I thought, why not try the military?"

Hall, who was trained to become a technician, was assigned the role of finance clerk after the forces underwent reductions.

"I have been posted from – either slept in a hotel or spent a lot of time in – every province and territory. Being a finance clerk I could work anywhere," Hall told The Lake Report.

As for her favourite posting, that would be where she met her husband Steven.

"While on a United Nations tour in Israel, on the Israeli-Syrian border, he came in halfway through my tour," she recalled.



Glenda Hall wears a poppy with pride leading up to Nov. 11 and urges others to do the same. JULIA SACCO

"We met, hit it off and became great friends. Fast-forward four or five years we ended up on the same base and the rest is history," she said.

Hall explained that many strangers are surprised she is a veteran given that she's a younger woman, but she shares her pride where she can.

"I do taxes at H&R Block and I had a sticker on my phone. It was a picture of a pin-up girl as it said, 'I'm not married to a veteran. I am a veteran.'" Hall said.

"I don't know how many clients I've had who see that and say, 'Oh, did you serve?' and I tell them I did. It brings a certain understanding right away."

Hall left the military in 2014, followed by her husband in 2018 and then they moved back home to his family farm in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Ever since, both have been helping out at the NOTL Legion.

This year, because a family member has fallen ill, the Halls were unable to help hand out poppies but urged each and every person to do what they can.

"It's to support the older vets. It's nice to see them coming out to the Legion and still being part of the organization in some way," Hall said.

Donating to the poppy campaign will ensure support for those older veterans, she said.

"We wouldn't be the country we are today without our military. As much as I treasured my career, all soldiers are people who help," she said.

"To have people that are supporting our veterans and making sure they're properly looked after, that's what really matters."

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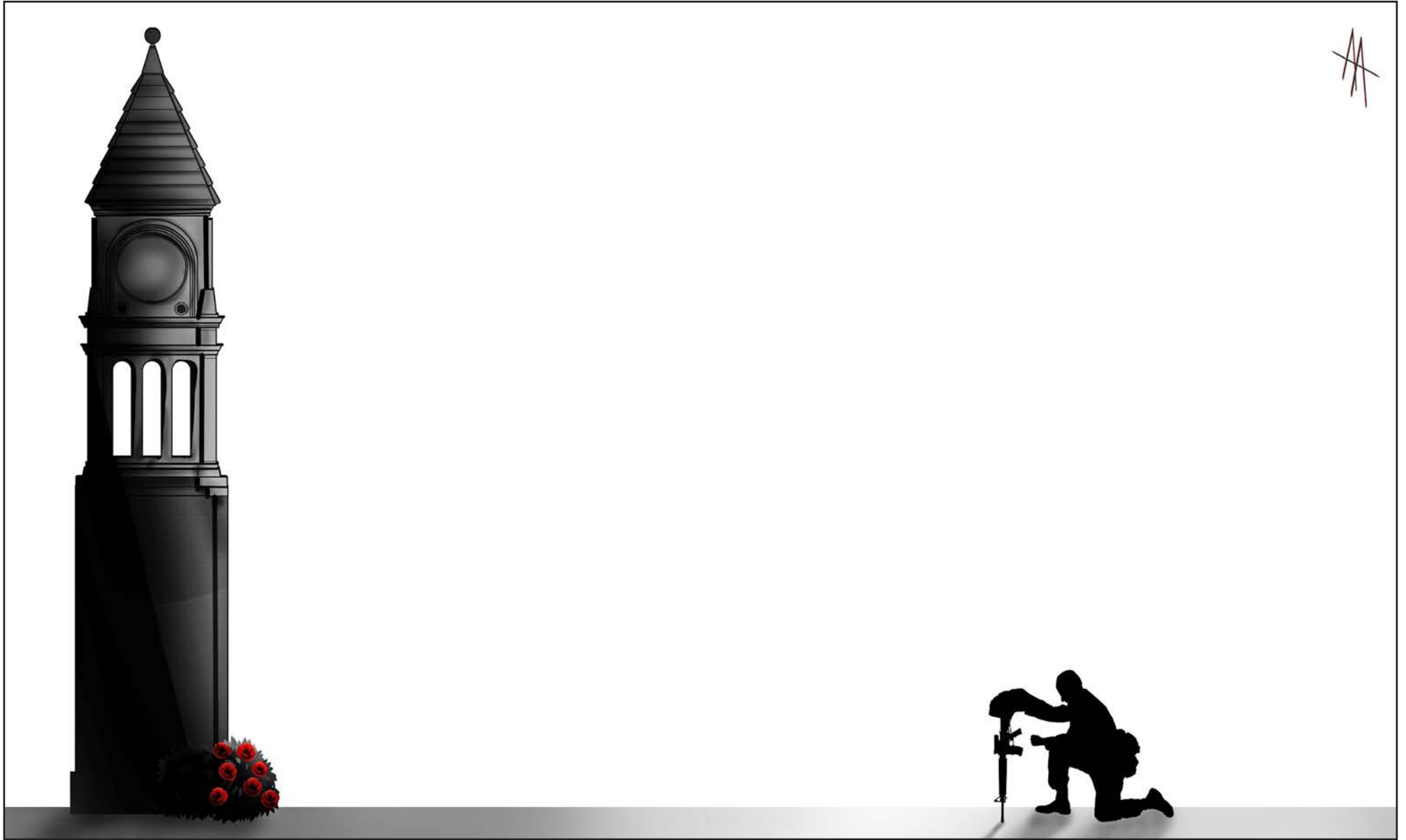


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 - Matt Kemp

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Expropriation inappropriation



Residents and nearby business owners fear that the expropriation needed for the planned St. Davids roundabout will literally and metaphorically cut into their businesses. ALPEREN ALBAYRAK

Editorial

A day to remember

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

Rain or shine, sleet or snow, Niagara-on-the-Lake always turns out for Remembrance Day.

A year ago, in torrential rain, the crowd was a bit more sparse than most years, but many simply grabbed their umbrellas and prevailed, slogging their way through the downpour.

To remember.

Through our two world wars, Korea, Afghanistan and numerous other deployments worldwide over the decades, nothing stops the members of the Canadian Armed Forces from fulfilling their duties. They serve no matter the circumstances. No matter the weather. No matter how poorly outfitted they are.

As has been well-documented by many others, Canada's forces are a shadow of what they once were.

We can blame the current federal Liberal government, but the truth is that no national leader, Grit or Conservative, has followed through on myriad promises to properly support our



Nov. 11, 2022 – Rain pours off a Mountie's hat during the Remembrance Day ceremony in Queenston. FILE

forces. It's been decades of promises and platitudes.

We are not talking about Canada needing or aspiring to be a dominant military leader. That is not our reality. But our nation does have a role to play.

Sadly, we have all heard the stories – whether about injured veterans being cast aside or not given the support they deserve or our armed forces being massively underappreciated.

And then there is the chronic underfunding of Canada's military – even

just basics in many cases, such as giving our soldiers the tools, equipment and even proper uniforms to do the job we demand of them.

We are not a warring nation, but as Canadians have long proved in the battlefield, we are warriors.

It is long past time our national leaders stopped mouthing their platitudes about how much they love and respect the men and women in uniform.

At this time of year, it falls to ordinary folks,

in communities across Canada, to step up and be counted.

We do it by attending Remembrance Day services in towns and cities small and large, perhaps watching the national ceremony on television or taking time to reflect on our own.

And wearing a poppy.

That red poppy remains a symbol of remembrance and caring – and when you donate and wear one, you help support those veterans who need a hand.

So, as Niagara-on-the-Lake veterans remind us in stories in this week's edition, please wear a poppy and take time to remember.

And do tell our federal leaders, no matter the party, that they need to do more than just talk about how much they love our soldiers.

This Saturday, Nov. 11, as the sun shines at NOTL's two cenotaphs, on Queen Street and in Queenston, if you are able, please take the time to join the hundreds who will turn out to remember the sacrifices made on our behalf. It's the least we can do.

Lest we forget.
 editor@niagaranow.com

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Amalgamation is bad for Niagara and for democracy



Keith McNenly
Special to The Lake Report

'Tis the season of ghosts and goulies, with decorations, costumes and candies leading up to the great day, then come Nov. 1 it's all over except to gorge on the leftover candies and rid our lawns of Halloween's detritus.

And so it is the appropriate season to again raise the spectre of the many joys of amalgamation.

The ghostly apparitions of better services and lower taxes, the big buildup, then the big day and "magico presto" the Town of Niagara-on-The-Lake is lowered into the grave, and the Regional City of Niagara rises into bureaucratic paradise.

The small towns and cities are forever forgotten in our new "megacity" utopia.

Ontario is resplendent with the ghosts of amalgamations past. The primary benefit of amalgamation is simple: to remove and silence the voices of residents when unwanted development is approved, government edifices are built, bureaucracies are expanded, services are deteriorated and taxes are raised.

I am writing in response to former Niagara Region chief administrator Harry Schlange's proposal in favour of amalgamating

the 12 towns and cities of Niagara into the City of Niagara, or some other such honorific, ("Schlange thinks amalgamation would benefit Niagara," Oct. 12).

I am a NOTL resident retired from a career of 41 years as a municipal chief administrator.

The notion that big government is the best government, simply because there are fewer politicians is laughable, if it wasn't also dangerous to democracy.

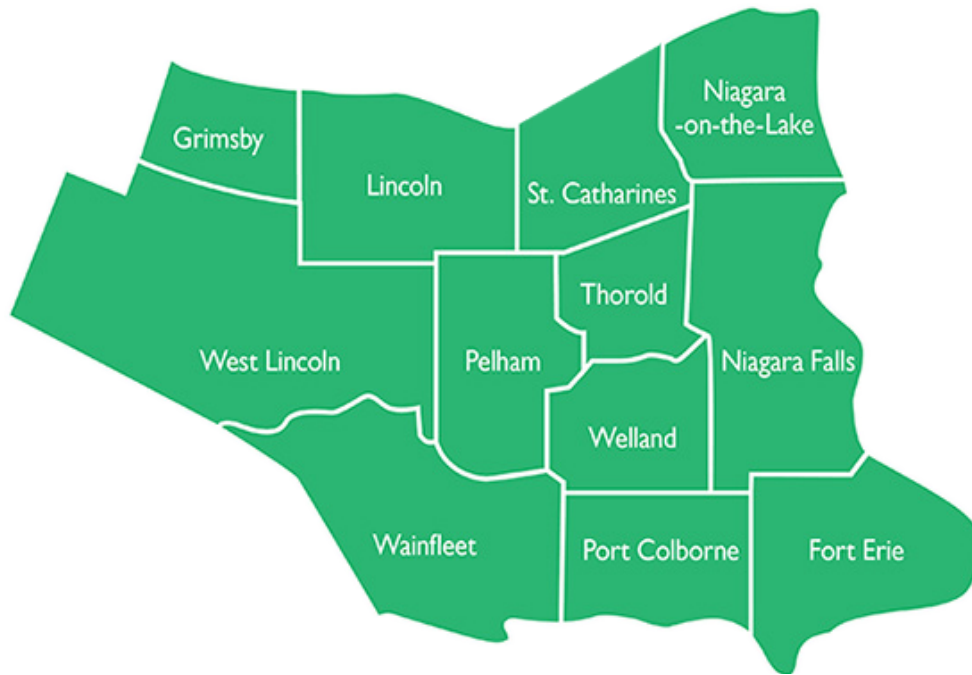
Big governments, like big corporations, leave you out of the equation.

Your small-town but earnest local representatives, working for you from their kitchen tables without staff or a big office suite in a large municipal palace (and being paid peanuts), will be replaced with nearly anonymous politicians who are there for the job, the pay, the power and the support of their highly paid professional staff.

Your access will be exceedingly limited, mostly to the staff. Your voice will be weaker.

The democracy you now enjoy will be gone forever because amalgamations are never undone. When we permit amalgamation it is a decision we make not just for ourselves, but for all who follow us.

The promised \$25 million per year savings and improved services spread out over all of Niagara's towns, cities and the region itself will be more than eclipsed by just the new headquarters palace that inevitably will be required to house all the new super politicians, their suites



Former Town of Mono chief administrator Keith McNenly, who lives in NOTL, says amalgamating Niagara's 12 municipalities is a really bad idea. SOURCED

of offices, staff, furniture, computers, copiers, etc.

Our neighbours working for us as elected councillors for next to nothing will not serve in the new role of a single elected politician representing NOTL.

Conservative development ideology in Ontario can only be resisted by fully informed and involved citizens, with a strong voice in each town that is affected by inappropriate development proposals.

Recently, we were advised that hundreds of acres would be removed from the Niagara Escarpment protected area to provide affordable housing. Of course, it was really to provide billions for developers, as revelations of unethical behaviour are emerging in the media.

Nothing in government is simple. Municipal finance is especially difficult to

understand if you haven't worked there.

The Mike Harris government (1995-2002), compelled the amalgamation of Ontario municipalities.

Conservatives know that informed taxpayers working within the powers of small local governments, can and do upset the almost automatic approval of inappropriate and unwanted development.

Involved informed taxpayers are a pain to developers and to provincial governments with visions of growth and taxes.

I'm not advocating the status quo. It simply doesn't exist and never has. No matter where we come from, we all know everything changes all the time and will continue to do so. Everything has and will continue to become more complicated tomorrow than it was yesterday.

Big government has pushed out small communities as inefficient and costly, but that is not true. They are effective and small-town politicians are the cheapest hardworking deal around.

Amalgamation is usually pushed with the trope of reducing the number of politicians. However, they are then replaced with highly paid, full-time bureaucrats.

Nothing wrong with civil service workers, but there is a role for local politicians, those people who have their name on a ballot, and that you choose every four years.

When local democracy was first invented it was small and personal. I'm sure everyone in the town knew every politician, judge, clerk, etc.

Big government is impersonal. Would you expect a new megacity mayor from a distant area to appreciate

or even acknowledge your concerns about the numerous development proposals in our unique NOTL?

Democracy is only approachable for many at its smallest local iteration. Direct influence of democracy does not exist at the provincial or federal levels.

For most Ontario citizens, it does not effectively function at the local level because most citizens live in municipalities with populations greater than several Canadian provinces. Not so in NOTL.

Amalgamation pushes extoll imaginary savings, but we know better. Most remember the chaos of the Toronto amalgamation; the still-stagnated service and transit projects; deteriorating parks and community infrastructure, while taxes rise.

Perhaps those who enumerate lists of imaginary savings might examine the promises made in Ontario's previous rush to amalgamations.

Democracy is inconvenient for developers. Enfranchised citizens can be a pain to those who prefer to impose their own views over the wisdom of the citizens.

Over the past several decades, local governance at a human scale and approachability has been as fleeting as the ghosts and goulies of Halloween.

If we let our approachable, effective and stable democracy slip away today, it will be gone forever.

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

Chautauqua oak trees revitalized thanks to neighbourhood visionaries

Dear editor:

Last month we saw the final oak tree planted as part of the program developed by Chautauqua residents Holmes Hooke and Leslie Frankish to assist in the restoration of the storied canopy in our neighbourhood.

It was the last act of a dedicated, lengthy and valuable journey that began with a detailed assessment of the declining condition of the

stately vegetation; moved through intriguing presentations to residents, associations, Niagara College and town council; and along the way inspired the full, active support of an entire community.

The details of how it was accomplished have been published but I'm hoping that residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake fully comprehend the incredible legacy this selfless work holds for

future generations.

Take the time to drive slowly through Chautauqua and look at those aspiring small oak trees.

Check out the tag – most of the trees have been grown from a Chautauqua acorn.

Consider how proud residents and town staff are carefully nurturing their new trees.

You might even cast your mind forward with confi-

dence that there will be a new canopy and how beautiful it will be in the years ahead.

It's all because of the vision and persistent dedication of two amazing people.

I know that, given the magnitude of this project, it truly is insufficient gratitude – but thank you, Leslie and Holmes. Niagara-on-the-Lake is in your debt.

John Scott
NOTL



Holmes Hooke is one of the co-ordinators of the Chautauqua Oaks Project. FILE/JULIA SACCO



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Cora Long D.D.

The good, the bad and the ugly of development



Brian Marshall
Columnist

Upfront this week, an update regarding our provincial government's ongoing use of municipal zoning orders.

In the Oct. 26 edition of The Lake Report, the Archi-text column, "The Greenbelt and the games governments play," provided a 50,000-foot overview of municipal zoning orders, a blunt ministerial order that overrides the provincial policy statement, provincial plans and municipal official plans in favour of developers.

Further, it reported that between March 2018 and March 2021, the government had issued 44 municipal zoning orders.

That was accurate to March 2021, but ministerial use of municipal zoning orders certainly did not stop then.

In fact, according to a Nov. 1 newsletter I received from the Architectural Conservancy Ontario, the total number of orders issued by provincial government ministers now stands at 107.

In other words, Premier Doug Ford's government has issued 1.6 orders per month for every month it has been in power.

Now, to put this in perspective, over the previous 16 years, during which the government was formed by the Liberals, a total of 15 municipal zoning orders were issued – that's less than one per year.

Is it any wonder that the province's acting auditor general is investigating?

Let's visit the municipality of Port Hope where a very brave council has voted to fight one of these municipal zoning orders.

This June 9 order was issued by the then-Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Steve Clark, at



Columnist Brian Marshall says the proposed Mavridis hotel and condominiums in Glendale is a great application, though it still requires design refinement to serve as a part of Niagara-on-the-Lake's gateway. SOURCED

the request of the Long-Term Care Minister Paul Calandra (the man who replaced Clark in September of this year), with the active support of the local MPP, David Piccini, who incidentally happens to be the minister of environment, conservation and parks.

This municipal zoning order was issued for the property on which currently stands the old Port Hope Hospital – designated under part 4 of the Ontario Heritage Act and includes three heritage structures – for the development of a new long-term care facility by the current owner, Southbridge Care Homes.

The owner's existing plans require the complete demolition of the designated buildings – something the Port Hope municipal council had been opposing for several years.

It should be noted that the Port Hope council did not request the municipal zoning order nor, apparently, were councillors consulted prior to it being issued. It was simply imposed.

Luckily, however, a municipal zoning order does not trump a municip-

pal council's authority to designate a property or to approve/refuse an application for demolition. And, the council – supported by many opposing delegations by local citizens – voted to refuse the application.

This decision is, of course, now being appealed.

If there was any question in your mind regarding the Ford government's position relative to the value it places on this province's heritage, this example should lay that question to rest. It is "just so much old stuff" to Ford.

And, if you are interested in a deeper look at the Port Hope situation and municipal zoning orders, I'd recommend Dan Schneider's Aug. 10 article, "Ministerial zoning orders and heritage come to a head in Port Hope", which can be found on the University of Waterloo's website.

So, while we may assume that, at some point in the future, Niagara-on-the-Lake may face one of the province's municipal zoning orders with a possible threat to our built heritage, let us turn to a more immediate item before the town – namely, the development

proposal for 343 York Rd.

As an overarching comment, allow me to say that, in my opinion, it is perhaps one of the most considered mixed-use proposals which I have reviewed over the past few years.

First and foremost, the location of the property fronting on the south side of York Road and backing onto the QEW is surrounded by commercial buildings and relates to the hospitality (Hilton Garden and Holiday Inn Express hotels) infrastructure farther down the road.

And, unlike the White Oaks overture, there are no existing residential neighbourhoods in close proximity which might be compromised by the development.

Second – and recognizing the limitations imposed by the site's situation vis-à-vis bordering roadways, highway and associated paved accesses – this site could have been more intensively developed, but the proponent has elected to leave approximately 76 per cent of the lot to landscaping and greenspace.

This property, if properly designed by an ac-

credited landscape architect who incorporated native Carolinian species, could really shine as an integrative Niagara-on-the-Lake gateway element.

Then, as we drill down further to consider the actual inclusionary elements of the application, the proposal contains not only hospitality-related structures, but also a residential (condominium) component.

As proposed, this condominium building represents 216 new dwellings of which 180 are one-bedroom units – or roughly 83 per cent. All fall below an average of 700 square feet.

While it may be understood that the applicant may have the investor market (ie. buyers focused on the short-term rental/tourist opportunity) in mind as potential purchasers of these units, this resource might be considered by town council as a leverage point to negotiate a reasonable portion (say 50 per cent) from the total as much needed affordable housing in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

In this case, "affordable" is defined as no more than \$500,000, or \$724 per

square foot, with a buyer "means test" to verify the purchaser's income qualification.

Further, from a roof design perspective, I appreciate the mansard form and false chimneys on the towers which recall NOTL's general character. As does the use of brick form cladding.

All that said, what are the downsides to this application?

Foremost is the proposed height of the towers. Although only a "modest" 156 feet (as compared to the 277-foot height of the White Oaks application), the 10-storey building will still surmount both the neighbouring hotels and Glendale's general existing seven-storey maximum height by more than 30 feet.

While I understand that the perspectives are preliminary and for "design discussion only," it is my experience that such drawings can be taken to indicate a general direction for the finished designs.


In this context, I might suggest that the architects have failed to carry NOTL's general built character down from their "nod" on the roofs into the forms, finishes and decorative elements of the buildings.

This observation is particularly evident when contemplating the projecting two-storey buildouts on the towers and the unremitting concrete grey variants used in the cladding (whether block, brick or manufactured stone) of all the buildings.

They may only be stylistically described as Brutalist – an architectural style that currently does not exist in the built character of Niagara-on-the-Lake.



So, in this columnist's view, we have here a thoughtful and site-appropriate development application which, with further required design refinement, is worthy of considered support in the build-out of the primary gateway into Niagara-on-the-Lake.



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



THE NOTL POPPY PROJECT

Outdoor installations of knitted, crocheted and fabric poppies at the
Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum (43 Castlereagh St.), the Niagara District Courthouse
(26 Queen St.), and Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 (410 King St.).



DAVEY  



LETTER OF THE WEEK

Remember the fallen but **strengthen our military**

Dear editor:

This Saturday, and for the two weeks prior, we take the time to honour those who have fallen in war time on our behalf by wearing a poppy and attending ceremonies at cenotaphs. And rightly so.

However, it is also long overdue that we celebrate those currently serving.

Our armed forces are in sad shape, which not only affects our ability to defend ourselves but also our place on the world stage.

This is not a reflection of those serving but on government policies – or lack thereof.

The authorized strength of our military is now 100,000 personnel. This includes all ranks in all three services, in both reserve and regular forces.

We also have about 2,000 mainly Indigenous personnel who operate in the north. The military is now 10,000 to 15,000 personnel short.

Equipment is also a problem. Among other things, the army has only recently replaced its Second World War pistols.

The army's equipment also has been depleted due to service in Afghanistan and supplying Ukraine.

The airforce has ordered a total of 88 F-35 jets, which



Writer Doug Johnson says it's about time for a major upgrade to Canada's military. MIDJOURNEY

were first proposed when Stephen Harper was prime minister and were to be delivered by 2010.

The latest order is for 16 of these aircraft to start being delivered in 2026 (three years from now) with a further 72 to be ordered in future years.

We will not have our full complement until 2032, nine years from now. Even then those initial aircraft will be stationed in the U.S. until we can make ready here in Canada.

Our navy is having to scavenge other ships in order to bring another ship's strength up before it can go to sea.

Our troop deployment to Poland should be being fed by military cooks, but we have not been able to. We were originally fed by Poland but now troops have to go restaurants and then put in a claim to be reimbursed.

We are supposed to have 2,200 troops in Poland. The army's strength is 44,000 which includes both regular soldiers and reservists.

At the end of the Second World War, Canada had the fourth-largest airforce and the fifth largest navy. Our army had its own beach at D-Day beside the two each for the U.S. and Britain, and made more inland progress than the other two countries.

Think back to the last few elections. Do you remember the word military coming up in any of them by any party?

This also affects our standing in the world. More and more, Canada is being ignored when new defence alliances and joint procurement plans are planned by our allies.

We have promised to bring our military spending up to the NATO minimum

of two per cent of GDP but meanwhile we sit at or near the bottom of countries that should be meeting this target.

I believe the political parties should be challenged both now and in the next election as to their specific plans to deal with these issues. What is the plan to deal with the shortage of personnel and equipment? I don't want to hear how they love the military.

Another way to show our military we appreciate their service, if you operate a business, is to offer a military discount and make it known that you do.

In the U.S., military personnel have a lounge in airports. And people can thank them for their service when they see them.

So, honour our fallen by wearing a poppy and attending a Remembrance Day ceremony this Saturday.

But also honour our current military personnel by ensuring our governments, now and in the future know that Canadians need and support an effective military.

Write your MP and challenge all the political parties during the next election on their vision and action plans for the military.

**Doug Johnson
Virgil**

Roundabouts ensure safe, smooth **traffic flow**

Dear editor:

I have written on several occasions advocating for roundabouts, especially in small towns with traffic lights.

I find the lack of proper understanding as to their benefits and the ignorance as to the dangers of traffic lights to be unbelievable in today's age, especially when their use is now so prevalent around the world.

Rather than spout the facts again, perhaps take note of what is happening in

other similar communities around the world.

Kennebunkport, Maine, is one great example in North America where the roundabout is a community hit.

In Europe, we have been planning and constructing for safe vehicular traffic flow in combination with pedestrian access using roundabouts for more than 50 years.

Please wake up, residents of St. Davids.

**Philip Hoad
St. Davids**

Hold a **referendum** on the St. Davids roundabout plan

Dear editor:

This is an open letter to Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and members of town council.

How much longer must residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake witness the overbearing mudslinging attacks on the mayor and the "for and against" commentaries related to the region's proposed St. Davids roundabout?

Given the financial magnitude of this project, which one letter writer in The Lake Report suggested could be upward of \$10 million to \$12 million, I am calling on Lord Mayor

Zalepa to table a motion calling for a referendum on the matter by the residents of St. Davids.

Going forward, future consultations between our elected officials and others will have a clear, unchallenged view of the residents' sentiments.

Not all disputed projects cry out for a referendum. This one does.

Democratically, it's the right thing to do.

In fact, the potential cost impact suggests the referendum should include all residents of NOTL.

**Samuel Young
NOTL**

Village of St. Davids does need a roundabout – **at York and Concession 6 roads**

Dear editor:

I have been reading with interest the various articles regarding a potential vehicle roundabout for the village of St. Davids.

I am a longtime resident in the area and am very familiar with the traffic flow in and about St. Davids.

The village does not need, nor does it have the room for a roundabout in its midst.

However, I will direct your attention to the intersection of York and Concession 6 roads and suggest this is the place for a roundabout due to the full reopening of Concession 6 in the next couple of months.

The current experiment



that saw the installation of four-way stop signs at the intersection of York and Concession 6 has worked well and it has been even more successful with no vehicular access up or down

the escarpment due to the Concession 6 closure.

In effect, this has made the intersection basically a three-way stop for most of the time the four-way stop signs have been erected.

During the period Concession 6 has been under construction, many vehicles going to and from Niagara Falls to Niagara-on-the-Lake and vice versa have had no real choice but to traverse through the village of St. Davids while Concession 6 has been closed.

Having said that, when Concession 6 reopens I would not be surprised to see a decrease in the amount of traffic going through St. Davids and an

increase in traffic on Concession 6.

When I stand back and look at the "big picture," I see a north/south vehicular corridor connecting Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake that does not involve the village of St. Davids proper.

This corridor is already in place and almost ready to go. With the prior improvements to the Canadian National Railway bridge and now with the road upgrades at the lip of the escarpment, Concession 6 stands ready to become a busy conduit once more for north/south traffic.

When this happens, the four-way stop at the inter-

section of York and Concession 6 roads has the potential to become a bottleneck for drivers on both roads.

To assist with the flow of traffic in this north/south corridor, a roundabout at York and Concession 6 roads makes sense.

It would facilitate the traffic flow through this intersection and it would serve to tie in with the roundabout to the south (Mountain and Concession 6 roads), the roundabout to the north (Highway 55 and Concession 6) and the roundabout to the west (Glendale Avenue and York Road) that currently service traffic flow toward this intersection.

The only other thing that

is needed to complete this "big picture" is the installation of traffic ramps on Highway 405 for entry onto and exit from Concession 6. Maybe that is a project for future consideration.

I don't dispute there is a flow of traffic through St. Davids, however, there are only slowdowns at the village's four-way stop for short, intermittent periods.

If the elected representatives from our local and regional governments continue to insist on spending my tax dollars for a vehicle roundabout, my vote goes for installing one at York and Concession 6 roads.

**Bill Morrison Sr.
St. Davids**



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What's that building and how could it be used?

Dear editor:
On our glorious fall walk this past week, we passed (for the umpteenth time) a structure behind Fort George and I asked myself and my husband Ted, "What is this and what was its purpose?"

No doubt some very lucky architect was handsomely rewarded for designing this unique structure which I am guessing might be from the '80s or '90s.

There is no signage and the building is sealed tight.

Many garage-type doors obviously offer a unique indoor/outdoor experience and peeking in as best I could, it appears lots of seating, probably a kitchen and no doubt some bathroom facilities.

Lots of picnic tables are set up outside and there is a rooftop "garden." I wonder, is there not an opportunity to reuse this space? Is it government-owned and does anyone know the back story or, more importantly,



Letter writer Carroll Baker is intrigued by this building near Fort George and how it might be better utilized. Right now it's sealed up tight and seemingly unused. SUPPLIED

future plans for it?

I know that change does not come easily to this town but I wondered if this unique architecture could come back to life as ... a very casual tea house?

Think the ones you find in Switzerland – not for a fancy High Tea but rather a place to get a hot chocolate,

cold drink, coffee or tea and a homemade sandwich, sweet treat or croissant. Maybe an ice cream.

It might take some pressure off Queen Street, offer something different and allow more people to enjoy the beautiful open spaces behind the fort.

By the way, I am not

offering to run this but perhaps one of our fabulous pastry establishments in town might be interested.

The Sweets & Swirls Café at the community centre does an amazing job!!!

As I am very well known for saying, "Just an idea ..."

Carroll Baker
NOTL

Speed camera coming to Virgil in January

Dear editor:
I earlier protested the upcoming installation of a speed camera near Crossroads Public School ("Speed camera near Virgil school is just a cash grab," letter, Sept. 21), as it has historically proved to be an inefficient method of speed control.

It is just a cash grab by the government, another way to add a tax to our already overburdened system.

This location will be receiving its camera in January. It will be one of four owned by the region and moved periodically to different communities.

The four communities that now have them have been complaining to the region about the cameras since they were installed.

The region will be moving the cameras around to ensure a maximum opportu-

nity to grab as much money as it can.

This suggests that the argument of installing these cameras is to provide a more secure community is less than sincere.

If the argument was sincere, the region would leave the camera in place to ensure maximum effectiveness.

The best solution for residents while the Niagara-on-the-Lake camera is in operation is to bypass the area.

Drivers can use the back roads, putting more pressure on those roads and further disrupting those communities, just as we have been doing during this summer's road reconstruction in Virgil.

Let the tourists pay for this safety solution.

Derek Insley
Glendale

Old photographs are reminder of Niagara's historic past

Dear editor:
Further to the Nov. 2 photo accompanying the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's featured Exploring History photo "'Solid Comfort' at Niagara Camp," here are two postcards from May and July 1915 showing the "Old Fort" and "Drilling and a partial camp view of Canadian Expeditionary forces Niagara."

I am writing from Kelowna, B.C., but my home town was the village of Stamford (now part of Niagara Falls).

I can remember as a young boy riding my bicycle from Stamford down to Queenston and NOTL to explore.

On one occasion I "discovered" the "Old Fort" Mississauga and explored it, I was even able at that time to go inside.

I collect stamps and when I saw these postcards for sale I purchased them.

It is an excellent reminder of how large the First World War training camp was at NOTL.

I previously read about



Old Fort Niagara-on-the-Lake. Bottom: Drilling Canadian Expeditionary force soldiers at Niagara Camp and a partial view of the soldiers' camp. SUPPLIED

restoration projects for Fort Mississauga and believe that it should be declared a heritage site and that the restoration should be full.

I appreciate reading The Lake Report online every week.

Robert Wallace
Kelowna, B.C.

Ottawa can't control food prices

Dear editor:
Is it really comforting to you that our federal government has demanded supermarket chains hold their prices?

Going from the dream world of politicians to the harsh realities of the marketplace, this means the supermarkets would have to stabilize all their own input costs or lose money and close their doors.

What are the input costs? Well, let's start with wages.

Is our concerned government going to roll back the wage increase just negotiated for the employees of Metro stores? And will the politicians in Ottawa stymie the present demands of the Loblaws store workers?

I hope not, because they need that money to survive inflation. Get real. Guess where the money has to come from – the price of your shopping basket.

Another input cost is the goods on the shelves.

Are we going to tell the banana growers in the tropics, the out-of-our-season berry growers in Latin America and the vegetable

growers in California that we aren't going to pay what they demand for their produce?

There are lots of consumers in other countries that will pay their price. Maybe we can get by without fresh or canned or frozen fruit and vegetables. But not if we want proper nutrition.

And we know there is a worldwide shortage of grains – you know, the stuff they use to make the bread and cereals we eat every morning.

These carry global "market prices" that are not controlled by the politicians in Ottawa. It's a bidding war for food, and the higher bidders get to eat regular!

And of course, there are those pesky petroleum prices. The truckers who bring the goods to the stores expect to get compensated for every hiccup in the price of gas – pushed upward by well-intentioned but impactful carbon taxes.

And these grocery stores are facing the increasing cost of leases.

Lease expenses will escalate as financing costs leap upward for the money borrowed to finance the property and the money needed to run the business. So, is Ottawa going to reduce or subsidize interest costs for Canada's supermarkets?

If I haven't dreamed it (or maybe it was more of a nightmare) the Bank of Canada has been working strenuously to substantially increase interest costs.

Where is this all going? If you're like me, you feel caught in a revolving door that may never stop going around.

We reel around dizzily as packages shrink, food quality drops (hard to find any almonds in my favourite raisin and almond cereal), and we realize that we are competing for sustenance on a planet of 8 billion people.

It's a depressing thought and I don't like it any more than you do. But Ottawa will never solve the problem by the camouflage of freezing (or what it calls "stabilizing") prices.

John Sayers
NOTL



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Indigenous veterans honoured at Queenston Heights ceremony

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Saturday marked the largest turnout in years to the Landscape of Nations' Indigenous Veterans Day ceremony

Around 100 people came out to the ceremony at Queenston Heights Parks, the site where members of Six Nations and Indigenous allies participated in the War of 1812's Battle of Queenston Heights.

During one of the ceremony's presentations, Tim Johnson, who serves as senior Indigenous cultural advisor at the Niagara Parks Commission, announced a big step for Indigenous storytelling in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The Landscape of Nations has started a Facebook page to share accurate and reliable Indigenous information with the community.

"It was time to make sure people got information about history, heritage and legacy about Indigenous peoples in the Niagara Region and to provide proper analysis and reflection on contemporary events as well," he said.

The Landscape of Nations was founded seven years ago, and Johnson said the creation of this Facebook page is a "logical extension" of the work that began then.



Brian Kon tends to the sacred fire during the Indigenous Veterans Day ceremony at Queenston Heights' Landscape of Nations memorial on Saturday. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

The page, which made its first post on Thursday, has garnered a little more than 50 followers so far.

The founders of the Landscape of Nations will author of variety of Facebook posts for its audience, Johnson said.

"We think about it as an editorial team," Johnson said. "Folks who really know how to cover issues and think about and analyze things from both an academic and journalistic standpoint."

"That's part of the approach we take on this," he added. "It's not just reposting things, although we are going to do that too."

Personal reflections and analyses will prove useful to the community, he said.

Admins include Tim Johnson, Robyn Bourgeois, Karl Dockstader, Amanda Harwood and a recent addition, Sarah Kaufman, the NOTL Museum's managing director.

Kaufman and the museum were heavily involved with the formation of the Landscape of Nations' memorial at Queenston Heights, she said.

"It's a very important part of the legacy here of the War of 1812 and Indigenous involvement in the area during that war," she said.

Kaufman said she and the museum's team look forward to helping out along the way and sees potential opportunity for integration of museum work with the page.

Along with the announcement of an increased

social media presence for the Landscape of Nations, the Indigenous Veterans ceremony featured words from Cita Johnson, second lieutenant at the Canadian Armed Forces and retired officer Jessica Miller, both of whom were thanked for their service.

Miller announced the opening of her bed and breakfast, Bears Cave Bed and Breakfast, in 2024, as a result of her training in the Black Bear program.

Cita Johnson remarked how special it was to be honoured at Queenston Heights, a place where she spent a lot of time outdoors growing up.

"Queenston Heights holds a lot of sentimental value to my family," she said.

Simpson family gains some closure with guilty plea

Continued from Front Page

Favell will be sentenced February.

Simpson has been vocal about his thoughts on Favell since he was charged in 2021.

In an interview with The Lake Report that year, he detailed stories of Favell getting kicked out of his daughter's workplace for being "drunk, disorderly and abusive."

Despite the closure that has come from Favell's guilty plea, Simpson shared one downside to this outcome.

"The facts aren't going

to come out and that's not fair," he said. "We're doing as much as we can that after the sentencing happens so that these facts do come out."

Simpson explained that he and his family are in conversation with the Crown and victim services to ensure all supporters know the full truth.

The trip to Salmon Arm, in central B.C., for the trial was one of many for Simpson and his family.

"For the first five years, we travelled for about a week every year to go down and search for her," he said. "The hardest thing about

coming back was not having her."

After Ashley was found, the family visited Salmon Arm again.

"I went down to the site where Ashley was found and I went down to where she was killed," Simpson said. "That was a part of the closure for me. It helped me to bear it all."

"It was nice to get down there but it was hard for the soul," he added.

Simpson said the community in Salmon Arm has been especially supportive and kind to him and his family in recent months.

"We've had donations

come almost every day," he said.

"It's pretty uplifting for us."

Support from the Niagara region hasn't faltered either. Simpson mentioned the recent Roper Romp organized by Megan Vanderlee, which raised more than \$750 for the family.

The Simpson family is still welcoming donations to support their travels back and forth from British Columbia.

The family will accept Air Miles and any donations to their GoFundMe page at gofundme.com/f/ashley-simpsons-family.



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Only 25 per cent of waste is properly recycled in Niagara, expery says

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

A lot of us do our due diligence in disposing of our garbage: trash in black bags, paper and plastic in blue boxes — and so on.

However, at an educational session at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library last week, attendees learned that how we toss our trash doesn't always reflect where it ends up.

Only 25 per cent of the waste generated in the Niagara region is properly recycled, with the remaining 75 per cent going to the landfill, according to data from Walker Industries.

The library's first Learn & Live session of the season, "Where Your Green Bin Goes," shed some light on how NOTLers can reduce the waste they produce, along with the role of Walker Industries in waste management.

Darren Fry, project director at Walker Industries, explained that much less waste is created at home than at places like restaurants and hotels.

In fact, more of what gets tossed out from residents' homes does end up going into blue, green and grey bins at waste management facilities, with 60 per cent of trash being recycled or composted and 40 per cent ending up in landfills.

Comparatively, in commercial settings, other factors mean less ends up getting recycled and more ends up in the landfill, Fry said.

"Even though we're doing really good at home, the



At last week's Learn & Live session, Darren Fry and Lisa Immel discuss the importance of composting and how to get the most out of your green bin. JULIA SACCO

reality is we have gone to a restaurant, or to a baseball game, or to the theatre, or even to our places of work where things come packaged," he explained. "Not many offices or restaurants recycle: it's a cost of business."

That's why the province is looking to place the onus on manufacturers, rather than consumers, to create products that can, indeed, be recycled — a model called "extended producer responsibility," Fry told the audience at the library.

"Say you buy a shampoo bottle from the manufacturer," Fry said. "The manufacturer of that shampoo is now responsible for the recycling of that."

"In terms of designing that bottle for easy recycling, I call it designing for the environment."

On a personal level, some steps can be taken to optimize the disposal of renew-

able and compost waste.

Fry and fellow Walker Industries employee Lisa Immel gave Learn & Live attendees some notes on the not-so-obvious tricks that can help residents get the most out of their green bins.

"Don't tie your compostable plastic bag in a knot, because the film is grilled enough to break down, but that knot won't," Fry said.

He suggests simply pinching the bag, plugging your nose and disposing of your compost.

Many people aren't aware that glass is not compostable and is often removed during the recycling process, Immel added.

Because the Niagara region, including Niagara-on-the-Lake, attracts so many tourists every day, Fry estimates that our waste production may be a bit higher than other municipalities.

"When we go out and go

out to dinner we generate waste and we probably have more of that here because of hotel rooms and all of the other amenities that we offer," Fry said.

This is an issue that will slowly resolve as we shift toward more renewable products from the start, he said.

"We're seeing a change in mindset change from 'This is a waste and we will charge people to give it to us,' to, 'It is now a resource and we will pay for it,'" Fry said.

"We will see restaurants, instead of a bill to get rid of food waste, they will get a cheque to get rid of their food waste."

The Next Learn & Live at the library is Monday, Nov. 27 and focuses on dizziness and fall prevention.

Registration can be found on the NOTL Public Library's website, notpubliclibrary.org.



When people recycle properly, it reduces the amount of material that ends up in landfills. MIDJOURNEY

The dos and don'ts of recycling

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library's most recent Learn & Live segment pointed out that only 25 per cent of the waste that we generate in the Niagara Region is properly recycled.

To avoid producing more waste for the landfill, The Lake Report gathered some helpful tips from the presentation, as well as the Niagara Region website, on how to maximize your recycling from home.

Do:

- Throw your composte bags out without tying them
- Dispose of solid fats and grease in the compost bin
- Dispose of small amounts of liquid oils in the compost by absorbing with a paper towel, newspaper, kitty litter or sawdust, or freezing

- Bring large amounts of liquid oil to a drop-off facility
- Rinse all residue off of containers and plastics before placing them in your blue box

- Use compostable or paper garbage bags to help with the breakdown of your waste

- Throw waste directly into your kitchen catcher to optimize waste breakdown

- Throw plastic bags into the garbage


Don't:

- Tie your compost bags in a knot before disposal
- Put glass in your compost bin
- Pour liquid oils down the drain
- Dispose of more than one litre of liquid oil in your compost

- Put a container or plastic in your blue bin without rinsing the residue

- Dispose of your compost in plastic bags
- Place all of your plastic bags inside one bigger bag to dispose of in your grey bin: remove ties and handles


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A dog, a gown and a busted eardrum: What a British family brought back from war

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Out of the Blitz came a blessing.
Rita Steele lives in a retirement home in Niagara-on-the-Lake today, but she grew up in London under the dome of the German air force's Blitz in the Second World War.



Rita Steele lived through the "Blitz" bombings of London during World War Two. The war left her with a few scars and a family heirloom. EVAN LOREE

The Blitz, which gets its name from "blitzkrieg," German for "lightning war," was a string of German bombings that came at the tail end of the Battle of Britain in late 1940.

The seven-month campaign of bombings killed 40,000 British civilians, at least half of whom were in London. Germany's air force is commonly known as the Luftwaffe in German.

Steele, who was six at the time, remembers the feeling of fear the most.

She recalls when she first moved to NOTL, she was not used to the sound of bird cannons, which some grape farmers use to protect their crops from birds.

The first time she heard one she almost dove for cover because it was so similar to the sound of a falling bomb.

"I think my hearing loss is from the war too," she said.

During the Blitz, there was an anti-aircraft cannon near Steele's home, she said, and it was constantly firing during raids to protect them from the Luftwaffe.

Steele's home in London was near an airport, which Nazi airmen treated as priority targets during the war.

Her four brothers and two sisters were serving on the

war front, so it was often just Steele, her two parents and their big black dog huddling in a tiny bomb shelter during the raids.

Steele laughs at the details still stuck in her head all these years later.

The family dog, Berchen, was once companion to Joachim von Ribbentrop, Nazi Germany's ambassador to Britain.

Berchen was left by the ambassador to Steele's brother Dennis Mulqueen, she says, because her brother was working for the German embassy at the time.

Von Ribbentrop was hanged for war crimes at the Nuremberg trials in 1946.

A faithful family pet and Steele's damaged eardrum were not the only things the Nazis left behind.

When Steele moved to

Canada in 1955 with her husband, Christopher Steele, she brought with her a christening gown repaired and lined with the silk parachute of a German airman who crashed his plane in London during the bombings.

Steele's mother, Elizabeth Mulqueen, bought the religious gown in 1940, but there were scant resources to repair and maintain it.

"Everything was rationed. So you couldn't buy material or anything like that," Steele said.

The British government introduced rationing to "reduce production and consumption of civilian clothes" and free up factories for war production, according to the Imperial War Museum of London via its website.

The museum states that parachute silk was "highly prized" in the making and

repairing of gowns, underwear and even wedding dresses.

Steele remembers her father, Stephen Mulqueen, who served the home front as an air raid warden during the Blitz, took her to town to buy the parachute when she was a child.

She said the family kept much of the salvaged fabric for safe keeping because of its historic value.

But, in 1955, her sister Ann Mulqueen made a silk liner for the dress out of the parachute's fabric.

While her daughter-in-law Dee Steele hopes to place the religious garment in a museum one day, Steele remembers it most for all the children who have been baptized in it.

"It just holds a lot of memories, you know?" she said.

The gown was first used to baptize Bernard Mulqueen, Steele's nephew, in 1942.

It was used three more times before Steele moved to Canada in 1955.

"That was when the German parachute was added to it," she said.

The repairs came just in time for the arrival of Steele's son Stephen, who was baptized in 1956.

His siblings, Elizabeth and David each wore the gown for their christenings in 1958 and 1960.

Steele has watched six children more wear the dress for their christenings as well. Her grandson Justin Steele was the last in 1992.

At about 80 years old, the white gown has become a storied heirloom in the Steele family.



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: THE GIFT OF GRAB

"Grab life by the horns" was its slogan back when it made the Ram.

Last issue:

Category: THE BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY

Clue: Extensive renovations were required after this residence outside London caught fire in 1992.

Answer: What is Windsor Castle?

Answered first by: Bill Hamilton

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Claudia Grimwood, Lynda Collet, Margie Enns, Susan Hamilton, Jane Morris, Bob Wheatley, Pam Dowling, Sheryl Christensen, Wade Durling, Jim Dandy, Richard Maxwell, Sylvia Wiens, Catherine Clarke, Nancy Rocca, Gail Benjafield, Margaret Tarnowski, Sheila Meloche, Kaitlyn Irving

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

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Princess gets a lesson in **Niagara wines** and hospitality

Continued from Front Page

icewine.”

“She is an avid home chef and put it together very quickly that icewine would make excellent reductions for sauces on meats and roasts,” he said.

She joked that icewine might be a little too expensive to use for sauces, he said, but noted she “has a very good palate for all the flavours. Her favourite was the Vidal Icewine 2021.”

The visit was part of a nearly weeklong royal trip to Ontario that included stops in St. Catharines and Toronto.

Ontario Lt.-Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell was among the guests at Saturday’s dinner.

The evening’s guest list included numerous VIPs from around Niagara, among them Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and members of NOTL and St. Catharines councils, area MPs and MPPs, and various dinner sponsors.

“It was a pleasure to witness the Duchess’ genuine engagement with all attendees,” the mayor told *The Lake Report*.



Left: Princess Sophie enjoys a wine tasting in Inniskillin. PHOTO BY LINCOLN & WELLAND REGIMENTAL SENATE Right: Princess Sophie, with Ontario Lt.-Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell behind her, at the Lincoln & Welland Gala at Queen’s Landing on Saturday night. ALEX HEIDBUECHEL

PHOTO GALLERY
See more pictures at niagaranow.com



“She took the time to personally introduce herself to each table group, leaving a lasting impression,” he said.

“The regiment band provided a captivating musical backdrop, adding to the overall enjoyment of the evening.”

The honorary gala chair, NOTL’s Tom Caldwell, CEO of Caldwell Securities, a former honorary lieutenant-colonel of the regiment, and vice-president Jim Caldwell were the main sponsors of the event.

The princess was “terrific and generous as she took time to meet everyone in the room,” Jim Caldwell said, echoing the mayor’s sentiments.

And the affair was “a terrific boost for the young soldiers in

attendance. She works tirelessly on behalf of the regiment,” he said.

“It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

The money raised at the dinner will support programs run by the Lincoln & Welland Regiment, including youth

development through its cadet corps, training for regiment members and support for veterans.

The regiment traces its history to the Butler’s Rangers in 1777 who helped to defend British North America during the American revolutionary war.

Spinners and weavers celebrate **fibre arts** with fall sale

Jo-Ann Fraser
Special to *The Lake Report*

The last time you wore your favourite jeans, you probably didn’t contemplate the indigo dye that imparts denim’s deep blue colour.

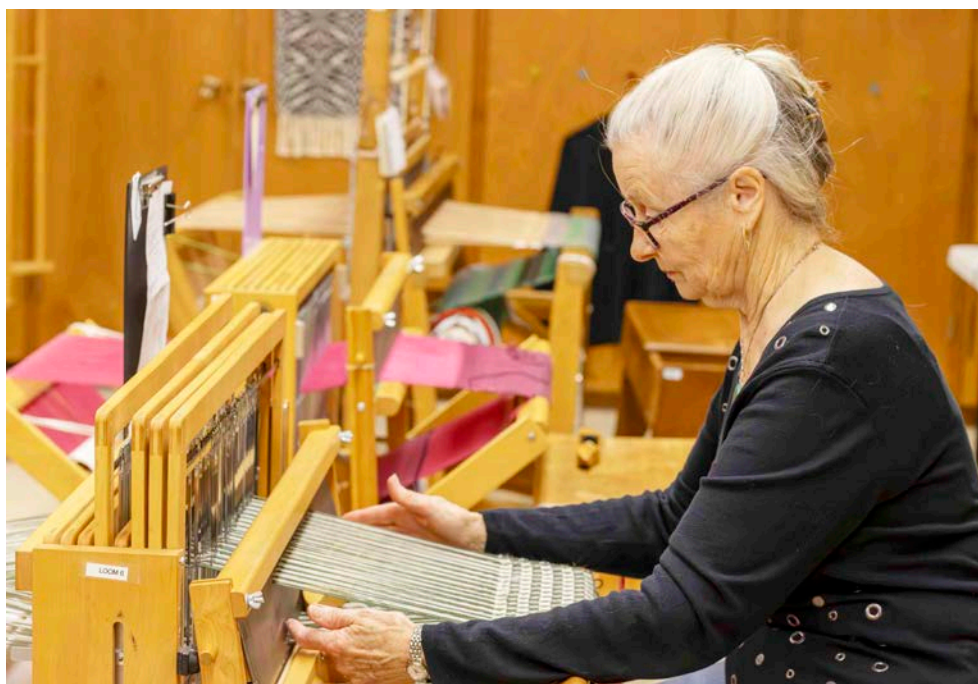
You likely didn’t ponder the fabric of your T-shirt either. Linen? Cotton? The warp and weft threads that create woven textiles may not have held your attention.

However, for weaver Hilda Ellard, these elements flow through her thoughts, much like the steady rhythm of waves on the shores of Lake Ontario on a calm, summer day.

“It’s my passion,” says Ellard, a Niagara-on-the-Lake resident who has woven since the late 1970s.

“A neighbour loaned me a small table loom and, with no prior knowledge or experience, I began cutting threads, dressing the loom, and crafting a couple of scarves. I was instantly hooked,” she says.

Since then, Ellard has played with the colour and texture of the fabrics she produces. In 2018, she joined the Niagara Hand-



Hilda Ellard feeds a shuttle through strands of yarn in a demonstration of how to weave fabric on a loom. The handweavers fall sale is Nov. 18 and 19 in St. Catharines. EVAN LOREE

weavers and Spinners Guild and is now dedicated to igniting the joy of creation in others.

In collaboration with other guild members, Ellard plays a pivotal role in co-ordinating the Niagara Handweavers and Spinners’ 2023 Holiday Show and Sale on Nov. 18 and 19.

This teaching guild, in its 75th year, consists of 55 members and serves as a

hub for artists and crafters across Niagara Region who are fervent about fibre arts.

At the heart of the sale, there will be an array of handwoven treasures, from vibrant cotton tea towels to placemats, scarves and clothing.

“Each piece reflects the skill, creativity and passion of the guild’s members and juried vendors,” says Ellard.

“The sale offers a unique

chance for visitors to engage with the talented artisans who will be on hand to discuss their techniques, inspirations and answer any questions.”

In addition to fundraising, the show’s goal is to spotlight Niagara’s fibre artists.

So, alongside guild members, eight non-member vendors will participate, including those crafting pine needle baskets and needle

felted cards.

“We’re excited to share the stage with these artists,” says Ellard.

Rather than merely a sale, visitors will also experience hands-on demonstrations by guild members.

“Visitors can try their hand at a mini weaving project, observe the ancient art of carding as wool fibres are readied for spinning, or witness the precision of spinners as they transform carded fibres into strands of wool, known as ‘singles,’ which will later be plied using both traditional and modern spinning wheels,” says Ellard.

A raffle will also be held, with the winner receiving a throw woven by a guild member.

With the holiday season on the horizon, the fall sale presents the ideal opportunity to discover unique, handmade gifts or secure a spot at one of the upcoming weaving workshops.

In the tapestry of human history, the art of weaving threads together has created narratives spanning millennia.

From ancient civilizations

to the modern era, the craft of handweaving has united cultures and woven textiles that tell stories of their own.

As a result, the significance of a handweaver extends beyond creating textiles; it encompasses the preservation of a rich tradition that connects us to our ancestors and the heritage of fabric itself.

In line with this mission, the guild has played an essential role in the area’s artistic community, nurturing creativity and sharing the rich heritage of handweaving.

The fall sale celebrates this commitment and provides everyone with the opportunity to explore the artistry of handwoven textiles.

The sale, which promises two days filled with creative inspiration, is Saturday, Nov. 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 19, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Trillium United Church, 415 Linwell Rd., St. Catharines. Ample free parking is available.

For more details about the guild and its sale, visit the group’s website at nhws.ca.

‘Brigadoon’ and ‘A Christmas Carol’ return to Shaw

Staff
The Lake Report

Two timeless holiday season tales that aim to bring comfort and joy to all are returning to the stage at the Shaw Festival.

Christmas spirits of the Dickensian variety are again inhabiting the Royal George Theatre as the classic “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens opened this week.

And Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe’s “Brigadoon,” one of the most enchanting and beloved musicals, returns to the Festival Theatre starting Nov. 15. Both shows run until Dec. 23.

In the spirit of the season, non-perishable food items will be collected for the Newark Neighbours food bank at all performances.

Brendan McMurtry-Howlett directs the Shaw’s 2023 version of “A Christmas Carol,” with Sanjay Talwar taking on the role of everyone’s favourite miser, Ebenezer Scrooge.

He is joined by Shawn Wright as Christmas Present and Élodie Gillett as Christmas Past, with Jason Cadieux as Mr. Hubble, Patty Jamieson as Mrs. Dilber, Andrew Lawrie as Bob Cratchit, Kiana Woo as Emily, Marlene Ginader as Belle, Jacqueline Thair as

Mrs. Cratchit, Jonathan Tan as Fred, and swings Gryphyn Karimloo and Allison McCaughey.

For those who enjoy selfies, following each performance, audience members can take a photo with the cast of “A Christmas Carol.”

At the Festival Theatre, “Brigadoon” adds musical magic to the most wonderful time of the year.

Directed by Glynis Leyshon, this romantic celebration of song and dance features classic tunes like “Almost Like Being in Love” and “I’ll Go Home with Bonnie Jean.”

While hunting in the Scottish Highlands, New Yorkers Tommy Albright (Stewart Adam McKensy) and Jeff Douglas (Kevin McLachlan), stumble upon Brigadoon – a village that appears out of the mist for one day every century.

After falling for villager Fiona MacLaren (Alexis Gordon), Tommy realizes the bewitched hamlet will once again vanish at sunset.

As the day draws to a close, he must decide whether to return to the world he knows or stay forever in Brigadoon with the woman he loves.

Tickets are available through the box office at 1-800-511-SHAW (7429) and online at shawfest.com.



Élodie Gillett performs as Christmas Past in “A Christmas Carol,” on now at the Shaw Festival. DAVID COOPER



Niagara-on-the-Lake photographer Janice White, whose work regularly appears in The Lake Report, has an exhibition of her pictures on now at Ironwood Cider House on Lakeshore Road. It runs until Dec. 6. SUPPLIED

NOTL photographer’s work exhibited at Ironwood

Staff
The Lake Report

The work of Niagara-on-the-Lake photographer Janice White is being

exhibited in the upstairs gallery of Ironwood Cider House on Lakeshore Road until Dec. 6.

The show features her latest work, images of the

white horses of the Camargue region in the south of France, as well as other photos from Niagara and beyond.

White, founder of Old

Mill Photo, is a regular contributor to The Lake Report.

A reception will be held at Ironwood on Sunday, Nov. 19 from 1 to 3 p.m.

NOTL’s Danny Lamb keeps things positive with new music

Richard Hutton
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Times are tough, no doubt.

Inflation, homelessness and the opioid crisis dominate headlines domestically, while wars in Ukraine and Gaza have cast a feeling of gloom and doom across the globe.

It’s hard to remain upbeat when the world around you seems to be crumbling, but Niagara-on-the-Lake singer Danny Lamb is doing what he can to cut through and deliver a ray of optimism in what feels like the darkest times.

He’s released a new single, “Powerful (Hold Space),” a song about his growth as not only an artist, but as a human.

“I really love to get that sense of positive energy out,” Lamb said. “I really try to stay true to that.”

While he has involved himself in many charitable endeavours over the years, most notably the globe-spanning A Song, A City initiative for spina bifida research, he said he has come to realize that, while well-intentioned, he

hasn’t always done things that make an impact.

“Until you create an impact for somebody in their life, it’s kind of counterproductive,” he said. “I came to realize that I wasn’t helping anyone. It became more of a question of, was I just injecting myself into a situation?”

He said he recognizes he comes from a place of privilege. But being privileged doesn’t mean he has necessarily had it easy: Lamb was born with spina bifida occulta and hydrocephalus.

Spina bifida is a condition that affects the spine and is usually apparent at birth. It is a type of neural tube defect that can occur anywhere along the spine if the neural tube does not close all the way.

Hydrocephalus is a neurological disorder caused by an abnormal buildup of fluid in the cavities deep within the brain. The excess fluid causes the cavities to widen, putting harmful pressure on the brain’s tissues.

“I’ve had two brain surgeries, I struggled in school,” he said. His new song encapsulates those feelings, he added.

Lamb, 35, who operates



NOTL musician examines his own sense of privilege on his new single “Powerful (Hold Space)”. SUPPLIED

the Danny Lamb School of Music, often thinks of how difficult things can be for others and tries to see things from their perspective.

For example, he cites a person who relies on a wheelchair to get around. Oftentimes, people may jump in to assist them, offering to push the chair for them.

“Too often they are defined by the wheelchair rather than being defined as human,” Lamb said.

“Does that person even want to be pushed?”

That person may have the best of intentions, he said, but in the end may have only served to hurt the per-

son they intended to help.

While Lamb has no shows in the immediate future, he will be helping out one of his students – Austin Dill, who has cerebral palsy – from his music school at the historic courthouse on Queen Street in Old Town on Friday night, Nov. 10.

The duo will perform one song during the intermission of a tribute to Adele being performed by Angela Seeger.

Tickets for the show are \$42.42 and are available at eventbrite.ca.

Lamb’s new single, meanwhile, is available on all major streaming platforms, including Spotify and Apple Music.

NOTL entrepreneurs among finalists for Women in Business Awards

Staff
The Lake Report

Several Niagara-on-the-Lake entrepreneurs and leaders in the world of entertainment, culture and tourism are among the more than 200 finalists in this year's regional Women in Business Awards.

The Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce, along with the chamber's Women in Niagara Council, have announced 2023's list of finalists, who are all eligible to potentially receive one of 13 awards at a ceremony on Nov. 16.

Among the finalists for the Community Impact Award are: **Lise Andreana**, chair of the Niagara Pump-house Arts Centre; **Juliet Dunn**, co-creator of the TD Niagara Jazz Festival; and **Rochelle Ivri** of Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

Sarah Kaufman, curator of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, is up for the Cultural Arts Award and **Marnie Cluckie**, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's chief administrator, is one of 11 finalists for the Corporate Leadership Award.



Clockwise from top left, the finalists in the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business Awards include: Minerva Ward for Excellence in Hospitality and Tourism, Marnie Cluckie for Corporate Leadership, Juliet Dunn for the Community Impact Award, Sarah Kaufman for Cultural Arts, Jessie MacDonald in the Young Professional and Entrepreneurship categories, and Alana Hurov for Excellence in Hospitality. FILE PHOTOS

Three of NOTL's leaders in the world of hospitality and tourism are finalists for the Excellence in Hospitality and Tourism Award.

Those nominees are: **Minerva Ward**, president and CEO of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce and Tourism NOTL; **Alana Hurov**, director of market-

ing for 124 on Queen Hotel and Spa in Old Town; and **Alyssa Waldes**, conference sales manager for White Oaks Resort and Spa in Glendale.

Waldes is also a finalist for the Young Professional Award among 13 others, including realtor **Jessie MacDonald**, of MAC Inc. and

Brandy Fulton, of Abatement Technologies Limited and Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery. MacDonald is also one of nine finalists for the Entrepreneurship Award.

Two recipients of this year's awards have already been unveiled ahead of the ceremony on Nov. 16.

Television personality

and former co-host of "Canada AM," **Valerie Pringle**, will receive this year's Lifetime Achievement Award, while corporate director and entrepreneur **Deborah Rosati** will be honoured with the Ruth Unrau Legacy Award.

Tickets are available for the ceremony, being held at

the Marriott on the Falls in Niagara Falls from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 16.

To register for tickets, visit the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce's website and find the 2023 Women in Business Awards banner under "Upcoming Events," at gncc.ca/events/upcoming-events.



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WSIB tribunal ruling breathes **new life** into case of Jeleel Stewart

Richard Hutton
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

An advocate for a migrant worker from Jamaica who was badly hurt while working in Niagara-on-the-Lake hopes the man will finally receive compensation for his injuries in the wake of a decision by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal.

On Sept. 15, the tribunal ruled in favour of four other seasonal workers – including one from Niagara-on-the-Lake – who were injured on the job.

The tribunal said the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board was wrong to deny compensation claims of the workers, who were hired under the federal Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program, and that the four workers were entitled to proper loss-of-earnings benefits and retraining support.

Jane Andres is among a group of people advocating on behalf of Jeleel Stewart,



Jeleel Stewart and his wife Suzan in 2020. SUPPLIED

who was working at Mori Nurseries in 2008 under the same federal program, and was seriously injured when a forklift crushed his left hand, severing his tendons and nerves.

He has been unable to work since and in the intervening years, his health has steadily declined.

While the tribunal found the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board was wrong to deny benefits to the four workers and has cleared the

way for Stewart to make his own appeal, Andres remains wary.

“It’s already been appealed once,” she said.

Stewart, who was 33 years old when he was hurt, returned home to Jamaica three months after the accident and has been unable to work since.

Now, at 49, his health has deteriorated over the years and a stroke last summer has left him unable to speak.

He has also had a stent implanted in 2022 to help with ongoing heart problems.

“He is a mere shell of the man we met in 2007,” Andres said, adding that his wife, Suzan, spoke for him at a meeting with his caseworker from the Toronto-based IAVGO Community Legal Clinic, via Zoom on Oct. 20.

“When he can speak, it can only be very briefly. He simply can’t get enough oxygen,” Andres said, adding that Stewart was released from hospital only a short time before the meeting.

His caseworker from the legal clinic, David Arruda, said the Stewarts want to move forward with a new appeal to the tribunal.

“The hope is we can have it scheduled within the next few months,” he said. “Maybe in January or February. It’s already been stagnant for so long.”

The workplace board’s spokesperson, Christine Arnott, previously told the

Lake Report that the review of the tribunal’s ruling would be “comprehensive” and take about six months to complete.

The review, she said, “will clarify how the claims are adjudicated and will determine whether previous decisions should also be adjusted.”

At the same time, Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates is calling on the Ford government to pass his private members’ bill: the Respecting Injured Workers Act (Workplace Safety and Insurance Amendment).

The act would revamp the board’s claims process, removing “deeming” when considering claims of injured workers.

Deeming occurs when the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board decides a worker is able to earn money they are not actually earning, on the basis of suitable and available work they do not actually have.

This is something Gates said hurts workers and

winds up costing taxpayers money when the injured workers are forced to apply for social assistance such as Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program.

Andres, meanwhile, is upset by the treatment of seasonal workers and their families when injuries, and in some cases, deaths occur.

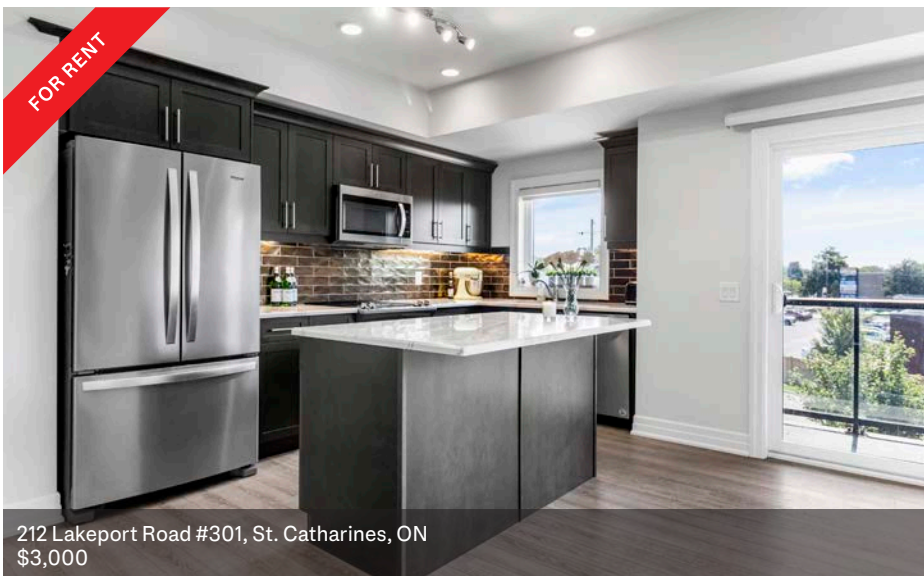
“Canadians don’t have to watch (workers) suffer and die of starvation or illness related to the injuries that occurred on our soil, in our communities,” she said.

“We don’t have to watch families grieve when they get the news that their father or son or loved one died thousands of miles away.”

As for the potential appeal on behalf of Stewart, Andres is worried it might be too late, given his health.

“His wife is beyond exhausted from caring for him the past year or more. The reality is we are expecting the call at any time to say he has passed away.”

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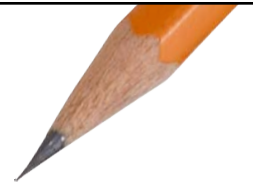
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Have some fun



Across

- 1. Without exception (2,1,3)
- 5. Crossword with no clues (8)
- 9. Good for you (10)
- 10. Chancel wear (4)
- 11. Geological faults (5)
- 12. Impressive array (7)
- 15. Vulnerable (3,2,1,4)
- 16. Free from bias (4)
- 18. Corporate big wheels (1,1,2)
- 20. Stage illuminators (10)
- 22. Country on Lake Tanganyika (7)
- 24. Edge of a precipice (5)
- 27. Angler's decoy (4)
- 28. Firm which makes Up! (10)
- 29. Arrogant, presumptuous people (8)
- 30. Overnight flight (3-3)

Down

- 2. Hold on ... (3,6)
- 3. Good conductor, perhaps (7)
- 4. Diamond songwriter (4)
- 5. Flake (4)
- 6. Common currency in New York, for example (6,4)
- 7. Disappear slowly (4,3)
- 8. Insurgent (5)
- 13. Disregarded for promotion (6,4)
- 14. Largest of the Lesser Sunda Islands (5)
- 17. With great concentration (9)
- 19. Used TNT to blow up a scholar (7)
- 21. Floral wreath (7)
- 23. Wrongfully appropriate (5)
- 25. Looked up to in Switzerland (4)
- 26. Nicholas II was the last (4)

Crossword Puzzle

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

Last issue's answers

1	G	R	I	M	A	C	E	D	6	I	N	W	A	R	D	
	E	I	A	E	N	E	E									
9	M	E	R	G	E	R	10	S	P	R	I	N	K	L	E	
	L	H	A	I	I	T	A									
11	L	E	F	T	O	V	E	R	S	12	S	T	A	Y	S	
	C	A	E	A	O											
14	S	T	R	O	N	G	16	D	E	C	I	B	E	L	S	
	E	R	G													
18	O	D	D	I	T	I	E	S	19	T	I	N	D	I	C	T
	G	O	T	O												
21	A	W	A	I	T	23	T	U	R	N	E	D	O	F	F	
	H	N	D	C	A	R	I									
26	T	O	M	A	H	A	W	K	27	B	O	O	K	E	D	
	O	T	S	U	L	L	L									
28	S	P	E	E	C	H	29	P	R	E	C	L	U	D	E	

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



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Nanoparticles and light, the Nobel Prize in chemistry



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Columnist

“Your father would expect better and so do I,” was what my organic chemistry professor told me in my second pre-medicine year at the University of Western Ontario.

My father was a chemical engineer and good friend of Prof. Baldwin, who was a soft-spoken, kind man but had little patience for those who were lackadaisical – one of the several words he applied to me that day.

It would be many years before I took much interest in chemistry and only then in the last seven years of reviewing the Nobel Prizes did I come to realize how amazing physics, chemistry and biochemistry were at the highest level.

The quality was exempli-

fied by the achievements of Nobel laureates each year such as the Nobel Prizes awarded to Francis Arnold in 2018 for, in her words, “harnessing evolution” to create effective enzymes for cleaning up some of the world’s worst garbage.

The following year, it was awarded to Stanley Whittingham, Akira Yoshino and John Goodenough for their work on the lithium-ion battery, modern versions of which, power our smart phones, many tools, and cars.

They were followed by the brilliant Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer Doudna in 2020 for harnessing (my word this time) messenger RNA as a tool for editing genes, David Julius and Arden Patapoutian in 2021 for their truly elegant work on touch and temperature receptors.

Last year’s prizes went to Barry Sharpless and Morten Meidal, who showed us how to make complex proteins by “clicking” simpler ones together, and Carolyn Bertozzi, for her outstanding work applying similar principles for clicking proteins



together biological systems to in her case, better understand how glycans (complex sugars) work in living cells.

This year, the Nobel Prize in chemistry was awarded to Mounji Bawendi, Louis Brus and Alexei Ekimov for their foundational work on developing, understanding and manufacturing tiny nanoparticles for creating brilliant colours in, for example, our TV sets or medical imaging devices.

The creation of colour using nanoparticles has a long history. Glassmakers were well aware that coating glass with gold, silver, cadmium, sulphur and selenium changed the optical properties of heat-treated silica glass and the colours of the glass.

Little did they know that the properties they cre-

ated were the product of nanoparticles. As far back as Greco-Roman times, solutions of what turned out to be nanoparticles were used to blacken hair or colour glass.

Nanoparticles have special properties – they absorb light and then re-emit the light in a different colour. The size of the nanocrystal at the ångstrom scale, determines the colour.

The latter property reflects the fact that at the ångstrom scale, quantum rules apply and hence their name, quantum dots.

Quantum dots are microscopic nanocrystals that, when struck for example with a blue light, emit vivid red or green colours depending on the size of the crystals.

This colour-enhancing technology is primarily found in LCD TVs, though some OLED TVs now have them as well.

Quantum dots are the primary technology that allow LCD TVs to produce the wide colour gamut required to display Ultra HD content properly, as they greatly increase the colour saturation

of red and green.

Summing up the current state of nanophysics, Heiner Linke, a professor of nanophysics at Lund University in Sweden and member of the Nobel committee for chemistry, put it this way: “In this class of materials, ways have been found of changing their properties, not by changing the material, but by changing the size. This is a foundational discovery in nanotechnology - the ability to do this in a controlled manner using quantum mechanical effects.”

The committee went on to add that “the modern field of nanoscience requires precise and ideally atom-level control of the synthesis of nanostructures. Therefore, the ability to fabricate materials at nanometre size with sub-nanometre precision and high fidelity, safely, in bench-top chemical batch reactions, represents a key milestone in the development of the new field of nanoscience.”

It concluded as such: “This year’s laureates played a central role in establishing these capabilities

and in this way provide seeds for the rich field of nanoscience to grow.”

My father would have known nothing of this, or the exciting work that led to so many Nobel Prizes in the closely related fields of quantum mechanics, chemistry, and biochemistry. But he was a well-read curious man who kept a microscope on his desk at home and used it to explore nature.

He also kept up to date with his academic colleagues, including Prof. Baldwin, and for several years chaired meetings with visiting scientists in chemistry at the University of Western Ontario.

He died in the late 1970s. I think he would be proud that, eventually, I took an interest in chemistry and physics beyond what I needed to know for practical medicine.

So, wherever you are Dad, I finally took chemistry seriously and very glad I did.

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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23
24
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- 16 NOV GREAT LAKE SWIMMERS w/Minuscule
- 22 NOV CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE The Beatles: Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band **Limited Tickets!**
- 23 NOV THE LEGENDARY DOWNCHILD BLUES BAND w/Spencer MacKenzie **Limited Tickets!**
- 28 NOV NOBUNTU
- 2 DEC BBOYZIM - In My Body
- 7 DEC JEREMY DUTCHER
- 10 DEC THE MUSIC OF A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS
- 14 DEC THE NEXT GENERATION LEAHY **Limited Tickets!**
- 20 DEC SASS JORDAN **Limited Tickets!**
- 28 DEC CHRIS FUNK - The Wonderist
- 29 DEC SING-A-LONG SOUND OF MUSIC
- 31 DEC NYE w/JIM WITTER - The Piano Men
- 19 JAN THE TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE
- 25 JAN DAVID WILCOX
- 1 FEB LESSONS IN TEMPERAMENT



Nobuntu



Chris Funk



bboyzIM - In My Body



Jim Witter



The Next Generation Leahy



EXPLORING HISTORY WITH NOTL MUSEUM



A brief history of the Remembrance poppy

The adoption of the poppy was due, in no small part, to Lt.-Gov. John McCrae's famous 1915 poem "In Flanders Fields." After reading the poem in a magazine in 1918, American teacher Moina Michael pledged to always wear a poppy as a sign of remembrance. In 1920, Madame Anna Guérin took the idea further by establishing a poppy campaign to raise funds for veterans and their families in France. On July 5, 1921, with her encouragement, the poppy was adopted as the Flower of Remembrance by the Great War Veterans' Association in Canada. The lapel poppies were made by disabled Veterans at "Vetcraft" workshops in Montreal and Toronto until 1996. An original poppy is featured in this week's photo. The poppy production is now contracted to a Canadian company with the oversight of the Royal Canadian Legion. Donations to the poppy campaign raise millions annually to support veterans and their families. Make sure to get your poppy today and support our local Legion branch 124. See you at the ceremonies this Saturday, Nov. 11 to remember the brave men and women who have fallen and who continue to protect us every day.

Positive news and an appreciation for Canadian health care

Continued from Front Page

As of this week, my four-month journey through the Canadian medical system is over, and by the grace of God I have emerged victorious.

Not only have I been declared a winner, but I am able to give thanks to so many people who have been my teammates and coaches.

Melanoma is one of the words tossed around in the world of oncology. Along the way, I lightheartedly told the medical professionals that I wished they would eliminate the words positive and negative from their vocabularies.

When reporting test results, positive is bad news and negative is good news. Confused? And this comes at a time in life when confusion and miscommunication are not welcome, causing angst and unnecessary worry.

Why can't they use the phrases "good news" and "bad news" instead?

Fast-forward through four months to Monday of this week, and my 12:45 p.m. appointment with Dr. Linda Lee at the Walker Family Cancer Centre at

the St. Catharines General Hospital.

I made notes of many names, people who were on my team for the day. Not just the big shots, the medical doctors around whom the system efficiently revolves.

Two volunteers in the main entrance area and then to the "take a number" general registration number giver. Sort of like an old-fashioned bake shop, but now electronic and on a screen.

Twenty minutes later my number appeared and I headed up to the second floor, where the action gets underway.

Wendy is the enthusiastic and slightly boisterous processor, who handed me the four-page personal medical history form. My penmanship has always been suspect, but she was unfazed when I returned the form to her.

She has been doing this for 27 years and still loves her job. Having just returned from her lunch break, she said, "Give me a few minutes to retrain myself."

Talk about detailed. Why did they want to know what



Ross Robinson is happy to report that he's healthy as an ox — and not as smelly. EVAN LOREE

size skate I wore, or what number I wore in 1967 playing defence for the Sudbury Wolves?

Of course, I'm joking, but the form asked some very obscure questions about my medical background. How much do you know about your mother and father's medical life story?

Then into room 20 to wait for the oncology professionals. First came Nicole, a young woman in her late 20s, who had studied at Brock, Mohawk, McMaster.

She reviewed my completed questionnaire. Bright, enthusiastic, empathetic, busy and seemingly interested in my individual cancer journey.

Then Dr. David Nguyen, who insisted that I call him "David."

This seemed awkward, so I stuck with his family name.

From St. Paul's High School in Niagara Falls, then McMaster and U of T, he is in his 11th year of post-secondary education, with at least one year to go.

He is bright, enthusiastic and has the ability to make me feel like I was the centre of his world for 10 or 15 minutes.

As he finished explaining the TNM Pathological Staging Overview, he seemed confident I was Stage 1A, and that Dr. Jeffrey Cranford's sentinel lymph node biopsy surgery, including the radioactive tracer dye, had provided enough information to offer an accurate conclusion.

Perhaps because I was still paying attention, he

explained that the excisional lymph node biopsy had confirmed Dr. Cranford's thinking.

The door to room 20 burst open and in came Dr. Lee, the headliner of this oncological revue. On time, effervescent, a clear communicator, busy but not rushed, and with the ability to make me feel really, really important.

Dr. Lee explained the situation and advised me that the news was "all good news." Not negative. Good news.

I thanked her for speaking to me in my language. My linguistic request was apparently noted on my chart.

I went downstairs for a hot chocolate and carrot muffin at Tim Hortons and bought the elderly man sitting next to me a coffee and almond bran muffin.

Life was good and I returned to NOTL without a big albatross sitting on my shoulders.

Not only have I been declared a winner, but I am able to give thanks to so many people who have been my teammates and coaches along this journey.

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



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U18 Wolves keep heads high after semifinal loss

Julia Sacco
 The Lake Report

It was the best of times. It was the worst of times.

But the NOTL Wolves U18 rep team never gave up.

After clawing their way into the semifinal of their hometown Harvest Classic tournament, the Wolves ran a gauntlet of emotions Sunday afternoon.

Playing at the top of their game and up 1-0 to the undefeated Saugeen Shores Storm, the Wolves saw their opponents bounce back to tie the score in the third period.

When five minutes of overtime and didn't resolve things, NOTL lost in one of the most dreaded ways.

A sudden-death shootout. Sharon Thiessen watched in anticipation as her grandson Logan Rossi's team ended its tournament run in the fifth round of the shootout.

"It was a very sad game. So disappointing," she told The Lake Report. But so proud.

They deserved a better fate, but coach Devon Neudorf was happy with how his Wolves team solidly improved throughout the entire tournament.

"Going into it I'll say that the team hadn't been performing at their best for



After a nailbiter of a game, the U18 NOTL Wolves were beaten by the Saugeen Shores Storm in a sudden death shootout. Despite disappointment, the team feels optimistic about their next tournament. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

a couple of weeks," he said in an interview.

Because the U18 team is unique, made up of players from three different ages and coming in from five separate feeder teams, the tournament gave them a chance to gel together as a group.

"Over the course of the weekend, we really made huge leaps and bounds as a team. It was a massive step from Friday to Sunday," he said.

Neudorf explained that while losing when they had a lead after two periods obviously wasn't a great feeling for the players, the

experience they had in the tournament ultimately made them better.

"We've got a bigger and more important tournament in three weeks, at the end of the month. The Silver Stick qualifier in Midland. So, that's what we're really working toward right now," he said.

Neudorf said after the game he reminded the players to push through, keep their heads high and their hopes up.

"Be happy about the small victories over the weekend as we grew as a team," he said.

"At the end of the day no one is going to remember the team who won a tournament in November, but we're working towards the OMHA championship to bring home a trophy in April," he said.

And while he was proud of the team's overall accomplishments, Neudorf also singled out the play of Noah Whyte (who scored the team's lone goal in regulation during the semifinal), shootout goal scorer 18 Dylan Price, and their goalie and tournament MVP Quinten Davis.

Another lost weekend for Predators on the road

Kevan Dowd
 The Lake Report

The Jr. A Niagara Predators finished the weekend without any points after losing two games on the road this past Saturday and Sunday.

The Predators lost 6-3 to the Northumberland Stars Saturday and then 4-1 to the St. George Ravens Sunday, making for a season record of 4-7-0-1 in the Greater Metro Hockey League's south division.

A short bench due to injuries and suspensions did not help things but Predators head coach Kevin Taylor thinks that was just part of the problem for his team.

"Penalties, undisciplined, two easily, winnable games. It was very undisciplined, nobody wanted to keep their mouth shut, there was a lot of unsportsmanlike conduct," he said.

"We got a 10-minute misconduct Sunday, it was just very bad," he said. "We didn't have a full line-up, guys were getting thrown out of the game. It was just

a disaster of a weekend."

On Saturday night, Cameron Savoie opened up the scoring just under four minutes into the first period. Following a pair of goals for the Stars, Niagara's Nicholas Nicoletti netted his team's second of the night to even things out at the end of one period.

Northumberland dominated the second, scoring three unanswered goals and kept things going with their sixth and final goal coming seven minutes into the third.

A third tally for Niagara thanks to Rhys Jones with less than five minutes on the clock narrowed the gap somewhat.

The St. George game Sunday was scoreless till 6:23 of the second period when the home team notched one.

Savoie tied it up nine minutes later but the Ravens would pull ahead by two before the second intermission. With a fourth for St. George midway though the last period, Niagara returned home empty-handed.

"We just didn't show up, they were just not there,"

said Taylor. "And then on Sunday, we were extremely short-benched: four defence, we had eight forwards."

To make matters worse, Taylor felt his team started the weekend with some serious potential.

"We went into Friday looking at a lineup that would've been one of our best lineups to date," he said. "Then find out one guy wasn't even going to be playing and one of our new guys isn't even going to be playing that weekend. So, you have a game plan set in motion and all the sudden it's not existent."

Also disappointing for Taylor is the weekend follows one of his team's best performances of the season when they took the first-place North York Renegades to overtime the previous Sunday at home, ultimately losing 3-2.

"The effort wasn't there and it was a completely different team than we watched against North York," he said.

The two losses add to the Predator's poor road record,

where they have only managed to win one of five games.

Taylor isn't sure why his team struggles on the road, suggesting it might just be that they do not know how to prepare themselves while in transit.

"When you get on the bus, that's when the game starts," he said. "You joke around a bit but you're still thinking about it."

"When I get into the car to meet them wherever I'm meeting them, I'm thinking about things that need to be done and putting together lines and putting scenarios together in my head," he said.

"The whole two hours I'm driving or the hour I'm driving to where they are, I'm preparing myself for the game, and I don't think they are doing that for themselves."

Hoping for better luck at home, the Predators return to the Meridian Credit Union Arena in Virgil this Friday, Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m. when they host the tough North York Renegades.

Some **final chores** in the garden before winter



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Columnist

you might have had isn't overwintering and becoming a problem for your new plants next year.

If you compost, you can be cutting up your disease-free annuals and adding to your compost bin. You can also throw the potting soil into garden or composter.

It is a good time to clean you pots as well with a cloth or soft brush and soapy water to kill any pests or diseases that might be present.

2. Shovels, rakes, hoes and garden forks: The first step in cleaning up your shovels, rakes, hoes and garden forks is to wash off all of the dirt remaining on the tools with the garden hose or a bucket of water.

If there is still some dirt remaining after rinsing them off, you may need to use a stiff bristle brush to give it a more thorough scrubbing.

The second step is to take this opportunity to sharpen up the shovels and hoes. It really isn't that difficult to do it yourself.



Joanne Young says it's important to clean off your gardening tools.

You can use either a file, a wet stone or a sharpening tool like the ones used to sharpen pruners to put a good edge on shovels or hoes which will mean not having to work as hard in the spring.

If your shovels, rakes or hoes are starting to get some rust on them, there is a simple way to eliminate the rust by using something that you probably already have in the house.

Place your tool in something like a five-gallon pail

or tote and cover the metal part with white or cleaning vinegar.

Soak the tool in the vinegar for 12 to 24 hours depending on how rusty the tool is. You will see that some of the rust will soak right off.

Remove the tool and use a stiff bristled brush or a piece of steel wool to remove the remaining rust.

Once cleaned up you can rub some three-in-one all-purpose oil on the metal and leave it on there throughout the winter.

To keep the tools from rusting over winter, you can also take a large pot or pail and fill it with sand.

Add about one to two cups of vegetable oil to the sand and mix them together.

You then insert the shovel, rake or hoe into the sand/oil mixture, which will coat the metal part of the tools.

Pull the tools out of the sand and leave this mixture on the tools over winter and it will stop rust from

forming.

If the wooden handles are feeling rough, causing blistered hands, take a piece of sandpaper and rub it up and down the handle (with the wood grain) several times to smooth it out.

To help the wood from drying out over the years, you can also put some linseed oil on a cloth and rub into the handle.

3. Pruning tools: When it comes to getting your secateurs, shears and loppers ready to be stored, make sure that you wash off any soil that may be remaining on them.

To clean up the blades, use some steel wool (or an S.O.S. pad) to remove any sap or rough spots.

If the blades have become rusty over time, follow the procedure above by soaking the blades in vinegar.

Once most of the rust has come off, use a piece of steel wool, scrub back and forth and the rest of the rust should come right off.

I have also heard that Scrubbing Bubbles toilet

cleaner works well for removing rust.

Why not take the time to sharpen up the blades before putting them away for the season.

For bypass pruners, where the two blades bypass each other, the blades are always beveled on the outer facing edge.

Always sharpen the beveled edge and never the flat, inward facing edge.

Once the blades are sharpened, use machine oil (three-in-one oil) and put some oil in all the working parts of the pruners (spring, bolts, screws, etc.). Your pruners are now ready to be stored for winter.

The last thing to remember before storing all your garden gear is to set out that winter shovel hidden in the back corner of the shed.

I think we are going to need them this winter. Again, don't blame the messenger.

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



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Obituaries

Timothy Malcolm Foster



Timothy Malcolm Foster
July 13, 1972 – November 6, 2023

It is with profound sorrow and the heaviest of hearts that we announce the peaceful passing of our beloved Tim. Tim faced his battle with brain cancer with courage and strength (and grace, too) and died at home with his loving and caring wife and family at his side. The devilish sparkle in the eyes of one of the funniest humans to ever walk this earth has gone out, but the love, humour, and friendship he cast over his short fifty-one years will disperse light and laughter for generations to come. So many stories, memories, and feelings come flooding back with the start of the sentence “Remember that time when Tim?”

Tim is survived by his children Sam, Vince, Gabriella, and Frank; his adoring wife, Valeria; his brothers Ryan (Miriam, Ava, Judah) and Dan (Amy, Hunter, Riley); his stepchildren Sophia, Francesco, and Christina; his parents Robin and Kevin; his in-laws Angela and Tony Rosati, his little four-legged chair mate Lopez Marpin Foster, and a huge group of supportive extended family and friends.

Timothy Malcom Foster was born in Toronto to Dr. Robin Williams and Dr. Kevin Foster, but shortly afterwards the Foster family relocated to Niagara where Tim was raised. After attending A.N. Myer high school, he went on to Guelph University where he studied Hotel and Food Administration. His varied career took him from Niagara to Toronto to Oakville and then back to Niagara, first in financial services, then in human resources, and on into the world of venture capital: it was this final sojourn over the last decade into senior’s long-term care (Oxford Living) where Tim truly found his stride!

Thanks to all the medical support teams over the last couple of years that have helped Tim thrive, flourish, and have such good quality of life through his battle, including the Sunnybrook health sciences team in Toronto under the care of Drs. Kumar, Sahgal, and Perry; his palliative team, and the homecare services of Niagara; and Dr. David Dec here in Niagara Falls who helped Tim and Val navigate some very difficult waters these last 6 months. Also, a huge shout out to Tim’s cousin, John Weber, for all his tireless efforts and frontline logistical support over the years. And finally, a special thanks to the personal support worker teams, led by Abby and Brad, who didn’t let a day go by without Tim getting his bedside exercises or a trip outside.

We are inviting all to attend a visitation at Morse and Son Funeral home (5917 Main Street, Niagara Falls, Ontario) on Sunday, November 12th, from 3-6 pm. A funeral mass will be held at St. Patrick’s Church (4673 Victoria Ave, Niagara Falls, Ontario) on Monday, November 13th at 1:30. A private interment will follow directly after.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate memorial donations to the student scholarship established in Tim’s name in the Masters of Gerontology program at Brock University. You can donate online at www.brocku.ca/donate. Alternately, cheques made out to Brock University with “In Memory of Tim Foster” in the reference line can be mailed to Develop and Donor Relations, Brock University, 1812 Sir Isaac Brock Way, St. Catharines, ON L2S 3A1.

Thanks for all the love and laughs, Tim!

“For a good life, we just might have to weaken” – TH

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



Diane Napier-Andrews



Diane Napier-Andrews née Watts
November 3rd, 2023 age 79

Diane has died peacefully, with dignity, on her own terms, at her home in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, in the loving arms of Nigel Napier-Andrews, her husband of 14 years. Her stepdaughters, Rebecca and Megan, were at her side. She chose MAID after struggling with a rare neurological disease for a number of years.

She was born on April 17, 1944, to Ivy and Stuart Watts, in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England, where she grew up as an only child. Her father owned a factory supplying the cutlery trade and her mother was a homemaker.

She attended Harrogate Ladies’ College, followed by the Inchbald School of Design, in London. In 1967, friends were leaving for Canada and, on a whim, she joined them. In Toronto, Diane’s design career flourished. She discovered her entrepreneurial flair working with her then partner, who owned a chain of record shops. Diane managed their classical music store. They published Fugue, a classical music magazine, and Epicure, a gourmet magazine, of which Diane was editor, though she never learned to cook. Her love of animals led her to open a tiny shop called Alexander Pushkin’s Colossal Pet Emporium, named for her Siamese cat. Her next ventures were a wholesale showroom in Toronto’s Designers’ Walk and a retail store at Avenue Road and Yorkville Avenue. She started making large custom mirrors and renamed her business Diane Watts Exquisite Mirrors and Fine Furniture. This enterprise was such a success that at one time she was selling through 17 showrooms across Canada and the US.

Diane had the ability to engage with anyone and had a wonderful sense of humour. Her many friends attest that being around her was always fun. Diane loved sports cars and owned six Jaguar XK convertibles in a row, until she had to give up driving in 2021. She adored cats and always had at least one as a companion from the time of her arrival in Canada onwards. She gave a good home to many strays. Her final feline companions were Ollie and Zoe, two Siamese. She travelled widely, visiting England frequently. She toured the US and Europe on both business and pleasure, as well as favourite destinations in the Caribbean. When she married Nigel at the age of 65, she chose a beach wedding in Barbados.

By her firm request, there will be no service, ceremony, or burial, but she wished her ashes to be mixed with the ashes of her former cats Tiggy and Lulu and scattered. She asked that her friends celebrate her life at a later date with a “good party.”

She had a final drink of her favourite Veuve Clicquot Rosé champagne before she departed and raised her glass with her classic toast: “Here’s to you and here’s to me, and should we ever disagree, the hell with you and here’s to me!” Memories may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.



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