



St. Davids teacher recognized with **Prime Minister's Award**

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

For Bryce Honsinger, teaching has been a lifelong passion.

With 23 years under his belt, he has accomplished

many of his dreams – namely, being an educator who inspires students every day and brings the classroom to life.

“The fire had been lit in me when I was really young,” Honsinger told The

Lake Report.

Honsinger is a recipient of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. The awards were announced last week.

The grades 7 and 8 teacher at St. Davids Public

School was nominated by a parent, Amanda Adam, who found his teaching style helped her son greatly.

This is Honsinger's second major award in the field of education: he was awarded the Premier of

Ontario's Excellence in Teaching Award in 2010.

“I never thought in a million years I'd win anything. For this to happen at a second time



Continued on Page 7 Bryce Honsinger



Leroy Thomas

Tribunal orders WSIB to **compensate** injured farm workers

Somer Slobodian
The Lake Report

In a major victory for seasonal migrant workers, a provincial tribunal has ordered the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board to pay compensation to four injured Ontario farm workers who were denied long-term benefits.

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal ruled the migrant workers, hired under the federal Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program, are entitled to proper loss-of-earnings benefits and retraining support — and that the WSIB was wrong for

Continued on Page 6

Keeping the **wheels turning** Seasonal worker bike program a second career for skilled volunteers



Dennis Blake repairs a bicycle in the Virgil group's shop. More bikes are needed and the group hosts a drop-off on Oct. 21. RICHARD HUTTON

Richard Hutton | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

Dennis Blake will often see his handiwork when he's out and about in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Blake is a volunteer with the Bikes for Farm Workers program and he has learned to recog-

nize the bikes he and his fellow volunteers have worked on after they leave the group's shop.

“We put reflectors on ... so we recognize them, or at least I do,” Blake said as he worked on a bike that will one day wind up in

the hands of one of the hundreds of migrant farm workers who come to NOTL each year.

“When I see them riding around, I recognize those bikes that came through this system.”

Blake, a retired renovator, is

one of 15 volunteers with the program, a part of Gateway Community Church's outreach initiative.

The volunteer group comes

Continued on Page 11

Schlange wants Niagara to reap benefits of **amalgamation**

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Change isn't strange for Harry Schlange.

The former Niagara Region chief administrative officer has been the driving

force behind a lot of change in his career and now he wants to see some sweeping changes to Niagara's government.

He brought a plan to regional council Sept. 21 to highlight what he thinks is

a natural step to better governance by merging Niagara into one city.

But before he could speak, regional Coun. Robert Foster and regional chair Jim Bradley asked to have his presentation cut from the

agenda, calling him a lobbyist and saying it didn't relate to the 2023 financial results being discussed during that meeting.

Schlange disagrees and says what they did is “insulting” and unfair.

The former CAO of Fort Erie, Grimsby, Brantford and Norfolk County, Schlange had a long career specializing in consolidating enterprises.



Continued on Page 4 Harry Schlange



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Last women standing: Two residents urge town to **reject** Glendale highrise

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

After almost four hours of public debate on a variety of planning issues at NOTL council last Tuesday night, two patient women were the last ones standing.

Irena Bliss and Lianne Gagnon were the only residents to offer their two cents' worth on a proposal to build four highrise apartment buildings across from the outlet mall in Glendale.

Neither was in favour of the high-density proposal at the intersection of Taylor Road and Glendale Avenue.

While six residents registered to speak, including Lake Report community correspondent Steven Hardaker, Bliss and Gagnon were the only ones to wait

past 10:30 p.m. for a chance to have their say.

"People can't wait four hours. We need to spread these meetings out a little better," said Coun. Gary Burroughs.

Bliss was concerned with the environmental impacts of the four towers, the tallest of which is 82.5 metres (about 270 feet) tall.

"At this 11th-hour of climate and Earth changes, proposing tall towers seems to be potentially very short-sighted," she said.

"Tall buildings by their very nature carry a huge carbon footprint," Bliss said.

As well, buildings like those proposed by developer White Oaks Tennis World Inc. are more expensive to construct and need more energy to heat and cool, she said.

Because of climate change, she suggested current and future generations might not be well-served by developments like this one.

She said the town should pursue projects with smaller ecological footprints and keep structures within a "maximum of six storeys."

The desired population density for Glendale can be achieved without having to rely on highrise developments like the White Oaks proposal, she said.

She was also worried about the effect on the migratory pathways of birds.

"There are well-being concerns with tall buildings that limit the sense of cohesiveness of communities," Bliss added.

She added the four towers would be in "stark contrast" to the "beloved" lowrise



Stephen Bedford sits through almost four hours of public meetings before presenting plans for the highrise condominiums in Glendale. EVAN LOREE

character of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"Overall, many experts reflect that lower-rise living, within that four-to six-storey environment, is closer to nature and facilitates a much stronger community," she said.

Gagnon, who lives in Niagara on the Green, had different concerns, noting the "small-town charm" and "unique culture" of NOTL prompted her to move here 11 years ago.

"Massive buildings that tower over our neighbourhoods" are the "antithesis" of NOTL, she said.

"Yes, densification will occur here and we will grow, but let's develop our neighbourhoods with forethought," she said.

"There's nothing visually appealing about those highrises that says 'Niagara-on-the-Lake,'" she said.

She also suggested the parking proposed for the development was insufficient.

"Most families have more than one car," she said.

And staff at White Oaks Resort already have trouble finding parking, she said.

"We're at an important juncture in our town's development that will affect our children," she said.

"Glendale should not be the dumping ground for these types of metropolitan requests," she said.

Both residents asked council to reject the development.

Neighbour worries new development will damage **150-year-old** tree



Four Mile Creek Road resident Sandra McPherson shares concerns about new townhouses planned along her street. She worries the development could have a harmful impact on trees, wildlife and her privacy. EVAN LOREE

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A proposal to build new townhouses on the shores of Four Mile Creek in St. Davids has one neighbour worried about her trees.

Hummel Properties, owned by developer Rainer Hummel, is planning to build nine townhouses backing onto the creek and facing Four Mile Creek Road in St. Davids.

Resident Sandra McPherson raised concerns at a public meeting on Oct. 3 about what could happen to the trees on her property.

McPherson lives next door, just north of the proposed development.

"Are any of the 30-year-old cedar trees within this protected area to remain in place?" McPherson asked.

She said maintaining them would enhance her privacy from future neighbours.

An arborist report prepared for the developer by Beacon Environmental Limited lists 17 of 23 trees for removal.

The majority of those identified in the report are spruce and beech trees.

McPherson said there were also trees along her property line that could be harmed by the proposed townhouses.

One of these was a 30-year-old Norway maple that might hang over the

property line.

She asked that if its limbs needed to be trimmed back, it be done under the guidance of a qualified arborist, and that the tree roots be protected from construction.

Another tree that McPherson was seeking protection for was a "significant black walnut tree."

Both trees she referred to are recommended for preserving in the arborist's report.

The same report said one of the proposed townhouses encroaches on the 150-year-old tree's protected area.

The Beacon Environmental report says construction near the black walnut tree be "avoided or minimized

to the greatest extent possible" and any necessary excavation apply "minimally invasive methods."

A white cedar hedge between McPherson's property and the undeveloped land is also suggested for removal.

McPherson raised other environmental concerns, including the development's impact on floodplains and snapping turtles.

She said a snapping turtle had been laying its eggs in the area for the last 30 years but had "lost her habitat along the creek" and had recently been found nesting near her neighbour's pool.

Snapping turtles are listed as a species of "special concern" under the Ontario Endangered Species Act.



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NOTL doctor part of Niagara team helping kidney patients in Guyana

Richard Hutton
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Conversations with colleagues at Niagara Health led Dr. Jennifer Frendo on a decade-long journey to help people in Guyana.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake physician learned of the efforts of Dr. Budhendranauth Doobay to help provide health care to people in dire need after speaking with him and Dr. Surianarayanan Rammohan.

She discovered Doobay had been travelling to his birthplace since 2010 and had established a medical centre there. On that first trip, he treated six patients.

“They were talking about the trips to Guyana,” said Frendo, a family physician who also works in the operating room as a surgical assistant at the St. Catharines site of Niagara Health.

Her interest was piqued and she had a suggestion for them.

“I said they could get more done with an extra pair of hands.”

And just like that, Frendo joined the team on regular trips to Annandale, Guyana, working alongside Doobay, Rammohan and Dr. Faysal Najj, who are all vascular surgeons in Niagara.

During their visits, the team performs fistula procedures to create long-lasting dialysis access points for patients with kidney disease.

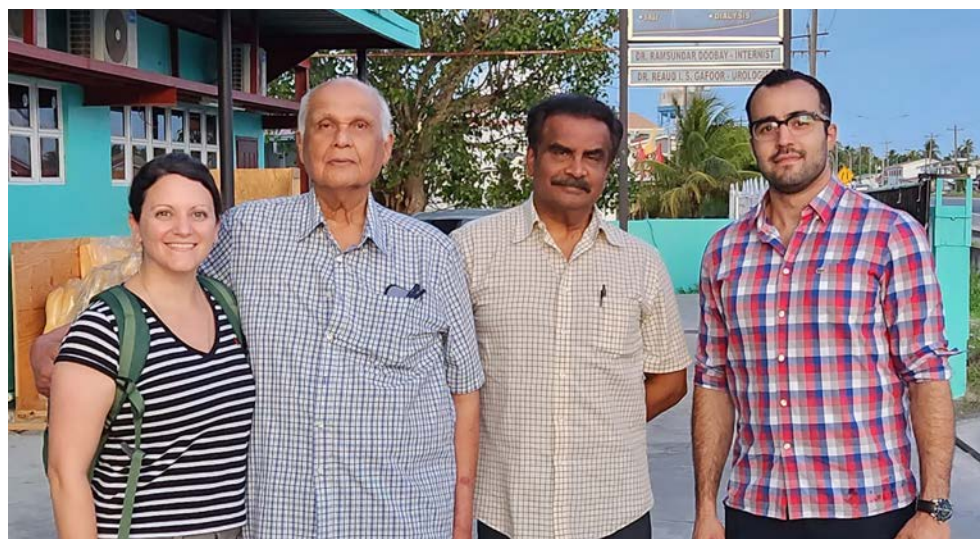
The surgical procedures, which connect an artery and vein, and can withstand dialysis treatment several times a week for years without collapsing, aren't common in Guyana.

Without proper, sustained treatment, which fistulas can facilitate, kidney disease can be fatal.

“I saw people on dialysis and I asked what happens when the body runs out (and dialysis can no longer be done),” Doobay said. “I was told they go home and they die.”

A lack of access to government-funded dialysis is another hurdle Guyanese patients face, he said.

There are also not enough



Niagara-on-the-Lake's Dr. Jennifer Frendo, left, with Niagara Health colleagues Dr. Budhendranauth Doobay, Dr. Surianarayanan Rammohan and Dr. Faysal Najj in Guyana. Bottom: Najj, left, and Rammohan, both vascular surgeons with Niagara Health, perform a fistula surgery at a clinic run by Doobay. SUPPLIED PHOTOS

dialysis machines at private, for-profit clinics to meet demand and treatment is costly – about \$150 U.S. per dialysis session and \$500 U.S. per fistula surgery.

Frendo added that a lack of preventive care contributes to a higher rate of kidney and heart disease in Guyana, something the group hopes to change through their work at Doobay's clinic in Annandale.

“It's something that is basic. They're not getting that down there,” she said.

On their latest trip, the doctors were able to help 34 patients over just three days from Sept. 30 to Oct. 2.

“We basically hit the ground running. We take everyone who needs help and keep going until everyone is taken care of.”

While it's difficult to see people in need of care that

many Canadians may take for granted, the work is very fulfilling, she said.

“Without this, people will die. It's that black and white,” she said. “There's a lot of grey areas in medicine, but this is not a grey area at all.”

But the situation is improving.

The physicians have secured more decommissioned equipment from other hospitals, including mattresses from Niagara Health when the health system switched to gel surfaces earlier this year.

A group of physicians from McMaster University also donated \$50,000 to buy filters for dialysis machines.

Nephrologists from Mac regularly make the journey to do patient assessments and followups. The group also fundraises by participating in the Toronto

Marathon each October.

Since that first trip 13 years ago, that patient list has swelled to 135.

Doobay has since set up dialysis clinics in two other Guyanese communities with a third in the works, and opened his own operating room, reducing reliance on government hospital space to perform fistula surgeries.

The Niagara Health team used it for the first time earlier this summer, doing 25 procedures over one weekend.

Doobay, meanwhile, has been undeterred in getting people access to critical health care.

“Helping someone with dialysis and contributing in whatever way we can, you're saving a life,” he said.

“There's no better feeling than saving a life.”

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Amalgamation could save region **\$250M**, Schlange says

Continued from Front Page

His presentation didn't contain any specific asks, but merely explained how he thinks Niagara could save \$250 million over 10 years, while improving services, through consolidation of government.

"It's a model and this is the same model I brought from the private sector. It's that you look at how you can improve things and make it more efficient, more effective and more accountable."

Now he says he plans to send his plans to the province instead, targeting the premier's office and others.

"I'm not a lobbyist," he said, in an interview with The Lake Report.

"That was totally false. I'm not being paid by anyone."

He said he wants to get people thinking about how Niagara can streamline its operations, leading to what he sees as smarter growth and management.

"If you look at the way the region and the 12 municipalities operate today, they do their own purchasing, they have their own their own finance, they have their own IT — why don't we look at those things and join them together?"

Schlange believes his experience working as Niagara's top bureaucrat has given him a unique perspective on the region and its municipalities.

"When I was the Niagara regional CAO, I really buried myself in understanding each and every hamlet that we reside in," he said.

"I went everywhere. I understood the local villages and their local neighbourhoods, what their economic-social status is worth. And so there's probably no one in Niagara that has had this type of experience."

He thinks the way things are going, taxes will just continue to increase, but without truly addressing the emerging needs of communities, such as the housing crisis, homelessness, poverty, mental health and opioids.

He believes the savings from amalgamation could be used to address those problems.



Former Niagara Region chief administrator Harry Schlange says \$250 million could be freed up by amalgamating Niagara's municipalities into one city. RICHARD HARLEY

Those savings would come from a variety of areas, including cutting overlap and sharing procurement.

Recent tax increases have been focused mainly on traditional services, he noted — "And you could check everyone's budget, Niagara-on-the-Lake's, St. Catharines', everybody — their headcount increases were all in things like parks and rec, special events, public works, clerks departments, administration areas."

He said the goal of the presentation was to find some regional councillors who would champion his ideas.

Schlange looked at spending from all 13 of Niagara's governments and found about \$2 billion in spending annually, he said.

One requirement would be to "harmonize labour," which would mean unionizing operation positions.

While that would necessarily mean an increase in pay, it could mean increased benefits.

He said the initial cost would be about \$20 million to \$25 million, but could lead to a net savings of \$25 million annually.

Over 10 years, that could total \$250 million, he said.

"Just think about this: a quarter of a billion dollars that you could start to ad-

dress and target (emerging needs), instead of always just crying to the province and feds for more money."

He said when he helped amalgamate services in the health care industry during a brief stint with the Champlain LHIN in Ottawa (now called Home and Community Care Support Services), there was money available from the province to help.

“Look at Niagara-on-the-Lake. They've had like five, six clerks in the last few years. It's hard to attract and retain the best if there's different compensation ranges.”

HARRY SCHLANGE
NOTL RESIDENT
FORMER NIAGARA REGION CAO

As far as not being able to speak at the region, he thinks they looked at it "from a glass half-empty" perspective.

"I felt that when they presented their 2023 financial results, that this would be a solution to help them. They were already running a deficit in some areas. They

said the reserves were lower than targeted."

He said one concern he hears about amalgamation is that communities might lose their local identities, but he doesn't think that will ever happen.

"Drive into Glenridge (in St. Catharines). There's a sign that says, you're entering Glenridge. Look at Merriton, look at how proud they are. They have their own parade and they were amalgamated in 1961."

He thinks a "city of Niagara" would need about 17 councillors — one for every 25,000 to 30,000 people.

"The reason why is Hamilton has 16 with 100,000 more population. Ottawa has 25 councillors for a million population," he said.

Those politicians would have staff and local offices, he added, and would work 24/7 to ensure local needs are met.

When it comes to the different needs of communities, such as Old Town vs. Glendale in NOTL, he said it isn't hard for one councillor to understand the different areas, and that all of the city's councillors would be invested in making sure NOTL succeeds.

"Everybody knows how important the economic engine of that Glendale development could be along the transit corridor, not just

the Niagara-on-the-Lake ward councillors."

Likewise, tourism and chambers of commerce could work together.

"No one would not support how important the heritage and the wineries and historic component of Niagara-on-the-Lake would be — in fact that brand would be enhanced, instead of everybody working in their silos, like Twenty Valley tourism, the Niagara Falls tourism, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber and tourism."

He thinks tourism could actually increase if there was a shared Niagara marketing plan, rather than individual plans competing for visitors.

But people would need to have a mindset change about working together.

"You almost have to unlearn this current behaviour that, 'I'm just gonna look after my little independent area.'"

Municipalities also wouldn't need to compete for government funding to support projects, as it would be tackled as one city.

Another benefit to amalgamation is that councillors and the mayor would end up being paid a reasonable salary, Schlange said.

Right now politicians in Niagara's lower-tier municipalities make far below a living wage, and he said that's a problem when you're trying to attract skilled people.

Asked if he thinks municipalities would lose the ability to critically assess things like development plans, making controversial developments easier to get approved, he said development would be defined by identified growth areas.

"Yes, if it's deemed a growth area, it's gonna be a lot faster," he said.

Many of the people complaining about development are those who have "established themselves here," he said.

"They're not really caring about young families moving here and making this more of a community to live in than Disney World. It's way lopsided now."

By identifying growth areas and pushing development to those places, it's

still possible to preserve the character of neighbourhoods, he said.

In NOTL, that could mean preserving areas like Old Town and pushing growth to transit corridors like Glendale.

If there's an area that needs to be protected and preserved, it's easier to do so when a whole city is on board and there would be more options of where development could go, he said.

"St. Catharines still has a lot of empty parking lots that you could build high-rises on."

What about concerns about councillors who don't know NOTL having a say on NOTL issues and areas of development?

"When you become one city, those other councillors care about Niagara-on-the-Lake just as much as they care about Merriton. I know some Ottawa councillors, you know, they worry about the Glebe as much as they care about Kanata."

He said well-paid, full-time councillors also have more time to spend on understanding the different boroughs.

"And plus they have staff," he added.

He said councillors in Ottawa earn about \$108,000 annually, which he calls "reasonable" and sufficient to attract people with expertise.

"And to be fair to current councillors, it's tough. I mean, you get agenda packages, you've gotta read it all. You've got a full-time job."

As one city, "you'd be able to attract the best talent in the entire region. You'd have the best of the best," Schlange said, noting municipalities now have a hard time recruiting and retaining staff.

"Look at Niagara-on-the-Lake. They've had like five, six clerks in the last few years. It's hard to attract and retain the best if there's different compensation ranges," he said.

He added that with changing concerns, like the environment, policy and growth issues, asset management, transportation, etc., "it's much more complex to manage a municipality now than ever."

"So why not be the best you possibly can be?"



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'Stewarts' of the land

Old St. Davids church to be remade as family home

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



Mark Stewart says residents need to help preserve heritage, but thinks designating the old Presbyterian Church in St. Davids is unnecessary. EVAN LOREE

The old Presbyterian church in St. Davids is getting a facelift. The town is reviewing a development application from its owners, Mark and Brenda Stewart, who are looking to renovate the former church into a single-family house.

"We're stewards of the land. I was taught that by my father and my grandfather," Mark Stewart told the town's heritage committee on Wednesday, Oct. 4.

But Stewart also hopes to use the building as his family's primary home.

He plans to build a deck on the west-facing side of the building and an extension on the back.

Currently, the church is on a single lot with the adjacent 1442 York Rd., which the Stewarts also own.

At the Wednesday night meeting, Stewart said the region rejected his request to build separate driveways

for the two properties.

Normally, the town would handle Stewart's request for the driveway but York Road, which the church faces, is owned by the region.

After a short discussion, the heritage committee decided to write a letter to the region requesting it reconsider its decision not to support a separate driveway for the church.

Stewart said he could better preserve and protect it if the property has a separate driveway.

The church was first built in 1888 and is 135 years old.

The former Presbyterian congregation closed up shop in 2018, which is when the Stewarts decided to get involved.

The church is a non-designated property on the town's register of heritage

buildings.

While designating it under the Ontario Heritage Act would provide the building with more protection from demolition, Stewart told both the heritage committee and town council this is unnecessary.

He told the heritage committee he might designate the property after building the additions for his family.

In addition to presenting before the heritage committee, he also spoke on the project to council on Oct. 3 during a public meeting on the project.

The Stewart family, he told council, has "deep roots" in the community: they've been living in the area 100 years longer than the church has existed.

"I'm trying to protect the church," he said, adding he is not interested in putting in a "mega mansion" on the property.

For Stewart, the remaining heritage features of St. Davids exist in "small pockets" around the community, the church being one of them.

Town strikes deal to use some regional planning services

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake plans to use Niagara Region planners to help the town handle some of its planning responsibilities.

It is part of the town's effort to adapt to legislative changes introduced by the provincial government last October.

The Progressive Conservative government decided to move some municipal planning responsibilities from the region to the town when it passed Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act.

The shift in responsibility has placed more pressure on small-town planning departments which tend to have fewer staff, especially

people with specialized planning skills.

The deal, approved at a committee of the whole meeting, will ease some of those burdens by bringing regional planning staff on board as advisers when necessary.

"Bill 23 did contemplate that not all lower-tier municipalities may be equipped to handle all the regional planning reviews," Diana Morreale, the region's director of urban planning, told council at its Sept. 19 meeting.

Neither she nor town staff were sure when the legislative changes introduced by Bill 23 would take effect.

A draft of the agreement approved by council lists the planning services the town may need help with.

Among them are project reviews involving former landfills, those needing environmental reviews and screening for water protections.

Project reviews like these will be covered by development fees.

The region is also offering its support on specialized projects, like watershed and secondary plans, but these come at a rate of \$85 an hour.

"This rate is anticipated to be less expensive than hiring additional staff or procuring consulting services," said a staff report by NOTL planning director Kirsten McCauley.

Coun. Erwin Wiens said the arrangement was like "subcontracting out to the region."

"This is an excellent example of moving ahead with shared services in a very efficient manner," Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa said.

Coun. Sandra O'Connor said working with the region was one of two options available to the town.

The other was to get enough planners and experts on the town payroll so NOTL could keep planning services "in-house."

"It's my understanding that we're going forward with this route now as a transition," O'Connor said.

She wanted to see more information on the town's transition plans in the staff report, but supported the decision to work with the region, despite her concerns.

Coun. Gary Burroughs asked if residents would see regional tax decreases given the diminishing role of the region's planning department.

"If staff were to cease to exist based on the changes of Bill 23, there are no changes to the overall regional tax rate because we are fee-for-service," said Morreale.

This means that the region's planning department provides a service covered by fees charged to developers throughout the development process and is not paid out of the regional tax levy.

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Ruling could have far-reaching effects for injured migrants

Continued from Front Page

refusing to give it to them.

The four workers involved in the appeal, including one who worked in Niagara-on-the-Lake, now will receive proper compensation for their injuries.

The ruling isn't necessarily binding on the WSIB in other cases, but the board says it is looking into how it might be applied.

Maryth Yachnin, a lawyer involved in the appeal, said, "These workers will get the compensation they're entitled to and, in a few cases, retraining, like an assessment of their ability to work in Jamaica."

The hearing panel, which was headed by Rosemarie McCutcheon, chair of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal, released its findings on Sept. 15.

The workers are not identified in the tribunal's ruling. Some of the cases go back more than a decade.

Leroy Thomas, one of the workers who decided to speak out publicly, said in a statement that the decision has been a "long time coming" and that it's been a rough road for migrant workers such as himself.

"We've been treated very dishonestly by (the board)," he said.

The three other workers, including one who worked at a farm in Niagara-on-the-Lake, chose not to speak out publicly.

The tribunal concluded that the workplace injury board has been wrongly limiting all injured seasonal migrant workers to only 12 weeks of long-term loss-of-earnings benefits.

Long-term benefits should be "based upon their ability to earn in their actual local (and) regional labour market," the ruling says.

However, the board bases eligibility on the Ontario labour market and the money workers could make if they were employed here.

After someone is injured on the job, the WSIB assesses the province's labour market and then often "deems" the injured worker able to go back to work at a job in Ontario – such as a gas station attendant.



Left: Leroy Thomas, now 48, is one of the injured farm workers affected by the WSIB appeal ruling. Above: Maryth Yachnin, a lawyer at IAVGO community legal clinic in Toronto, says WSIB's policy is farcical and treats workers as disposable. SUPPLIED

In this case, all the workers are from Jamaica, so Yachnin says the board ruling means the WSIB now needs to take that country's labour conditions into consideration.

The current practice is seen as unfair by many, since the injured workers are no longer living in Ontario and in many cases, they will be unable to ever again do the kind of work they did while in Canada. Nor can they do an alternate job, like gas station attendant, because in the vast majority of cases, they are no longer in the country by that time – and probably won't be returning, Yachnin said.

However, that doesn't diminish the fact they were hurt on the job in Ontario.

"The board will pick a fake job that they could do in a world where they could work in Ontario," she said.

As a result, the worker won't get any lost wages and they'll only receive 12 weeks "as a substitute for any ongoing loss of earnings," she said.

The WSIB said in a statement to the tribunal that it doesn't provide "re-entry services" to Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program workers after returning to their home country "because it is too costly and/or impractical."

The tribunal ruling means that doesn't matter. It demands the WSIB do right by the workers.

The tribunal rejected the board's stance and said migrant workers are entitled to a labour market re-entry assessment and re-entry plan based on each worker's actual labour market – in other words, wherever they are now living.

“We do expect this to have precedential value for future cases of the tribunal.”

MARYTH YACHNIN
LAWYER

Yachnin said the ruling is significant and precedent-setting because the tribunal wanted this case to "help settle the law on this issue" – so, she anticipates it will influence the tribunal's future decisions on similar cases.

"We do expect this to have precedential value for future cases of the tribunal," she said.

Yachnin was also heartened to see the tribunal address other serious issues migrant workers face, such as access to health care, anti-Black racism and discrimination.

The tribunal's decision referenced the vulnerability of migrant workers in the agricultural program due to two factors: the nature of their precarious employment status and the existence of systemic racism.

"There is no dispute that the courts have found it appropriate to take judicial notice of the reality of anti-Black racism in certain circumstances," says the tribunal decision.

The appellants cited three Canadian legal cases that weigh in on the role of anti-Black racism in these matters and how they are adjudicated.

"The panel concludes that the (appeal tribunal) may take official notice of the existence of anti-Black racism and other forms of discrimination where it is relevant to the weighing of evidence," the decision says.

Yachnin said, "As far as we know, that was the first time this tribunal has seriously addressed anti-Black racism."

This is significant to Yachnin and her team at the IAVGO Community Legal Clinic in Toronto because it means other Black and racialized injured workers who have faced racism may be able to have it factored into determining a fair outcome in their appeals, she said.

While the tribunal can't force the board to change its policy on injured workers, Yachnin hopes the WSIB will take the ruling seriously and review its practice.

"Because there's obviously a clear indication that this practice is wrong," she said.

On Sept. 22, one week after the ruling, the WSIB "launched a review of how claims for people in the federal Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program are handled," said Christine Arnott, the board's public affairs manager.

Asked if the review was in response to the ruling, Arnott said, "This is about doing the right thing and treating people with humanity, dignity and respect."

She added that everyone deserves to feel safe on the job and that injured workers should have access to support no matter where they live.

She said the review is expected to be completed within six months and it will help the WSIB take a consistent and fair approach "that recognizes the realities of people's local labour markets after they return home."

"This review will clarify how the claims are adjudicated and will determine whether previous decisions should also be adjusted," she added.

Any workers who have claims under review will be contacted by the board within the coming weeks, she said.

The legal clinic has been fighting to change the WSIB's "unfair" policy on long-term benefits for close to 20 years, Yachnin said.

The policy is "farcical," she said, and treats workers as disposable, adding that it not only reflects how poorly the board treats migrant workers, but how the wider system views them.

Yachnin hopes the ruling is a step toward getting injured workers the retraining they need in their home countries.

"It also pushes the whole system to not dispose of workers," she said.

Normally, if any worker in Ontario is hurt on the job, they are entitled to loss-of-earnings benefits if they can't return to work, and if they need it, they get retraining support so that they can find a suitable job if they can't go back to their original role, she said.

Workers can also receive WSIB loss-of-earnings payments until they are 65 if they can't return to work at all.

Arnott said there are different views about how to determine what work is "suitable and available" for an injured or ill migrant worker after they have returned to their home country.

She noted that the tribunal has supported the way the board has handled these claims in the past.

Yachnin feels optimistic for other workers who are going through similar situations, like Jeleel Stewart, a migrant worker who was injured on the job at Mori Nurseries in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

He's been fighting for proper compensation since 2008.

Yachnin said she encourages all seasonal migrant workers who may have been injured to speak up.

"If they have a permanent injury, (if) they were injured in the program, to reach out and get some advice, to make sure that they're getting compensation that they are due."



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Romp with Mrs. Roper in NOTL and help others along the way

Richard Hutton
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



Joanne Draper is all ready for the inaugural Mrs. Roper's Romp, taking place on Oct. 22 in NOTL. Money raised will help the family of Ashley Simpson to attend the trial in B.C. of the man accused in her murder. It starts later this month. RICHARD HUTTON

There may be no Regal Beagle on the route, but a trio of Niagara-on-the-Lake pubs will be taking part in the inaugural Mrs. Roper's Romp in Old Town, in honour of the classic television sitcom "Three's Company."

So, who exactly is Mrs. Roper? And just what is the romp all about?

Helen Roper was the endlessly neglected wife of Stanley Roper, both landlords featured in "Three's Company," which ran on ABC from 1977 to 1984. They were played by Audrey Lindley and Norman Fell, respectively.

The show centred around Jack Tripper, played by John Ritter, who was living with two women, Chrissy and Janet (played by Suzanne Somers and Joyce DeWitt respectively).

And the romp? Its organizer, Megan Vanderlee, says it's a pub crawl.

She first became aware of this phenomenon via social media, which inspired her to establish one in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"There was one in San Diego and they've been spreading like wildfire across the U.S.," Vanderlee said.

The pub crawl will take place on Oct. 22 and establishments in Old Town such as the Old Angel Inn, the Irish Harp, Corks and more are all taking part in the pub crawl.

An after party will also be held at the Sandtrap Pub and Grill.

Vanderlee said she was also inspired to add a fundraising element to the event.

Proceeds will go to support the family of Ashley Simpson, a St. Catharines woman who was 32 years old when she went missing in 2016 near Salmon Arm, B.C..

Her remains were found in 2021 and her boyfriend, Derek Lee Matthew Favell, has been charged with second-degree murder with the trial set to begin later this month.

"The family are very good friends of mine," Vanderlee said, adding she had taken part in several fundraisers for the family in the past.

"They don't have the resources to go and stay there for three months (for the trial)."

Simpson's family, meanwhile, is grateful for the support they have received from across Niagara since their daughter first went missing, Ashley's father, John, said.

Now, with the trial ready to begin on Oct. 31, they weren't looking to turn to the community for more help.

"We waited until the last minute for that very reason," Simpson said.

The family has been keeping close tabs on pre-trial hearings and has reached a point where they are anxious for the formal proceeding to begin.

"We heard all of the evidence in the pre-trial and bail hearings. We'd like to get this over and done with so we can move on," Simpson said.

The first Mrs. Roper's Romp was held in New Orleans in 2013. Fifty people took part in the event, during which participants dressed as the iconic TV character.

Likewise, participants in

the NOTL romp are being encouraged to don red wigs and kaftans, signature features of the character.

Maria Mavridis, owner of Corks and the founder Anchor Niagara, thought the event was a great idea and wanted to be involved as a participating business and help promote it.

Anchor Niagara is an organization that partners with local businesses in the offseason to promote events and fundraisers.

"Megan just bounced the idea off me and I was more than happy to support it," Mavridis said.

Meanwhile, Joanne Draper from Van Noort Flower Studio plans to take part in the event – she's one of 40 people who have signed up for the romp so far – and she's looking forward to it.

"It sounds like it's going to be a lot of fun. I grew up watching 'Three's Company,'" she said.

While registration for the event is free, donations will be collected at the crawl's starting point at the Royal Canadian Legion Brach 124 on King Street.

To register, visit anchornigara.com/events.

St. Davids school teacher says 'respect is key'

Continued from Front Page

at a national level is just overwhelming. I still don't believe it," he said.

Honsinger grew up the son of a teacher, his mom working at District School Board of Niagara for 33 years.

From a young age, he had been interested in pursuing the same career path, but two exceptional teachers at Grantham High School, which he attended, gave him a final push.

Doug Melville taught Honsinger history in Grade 10 and Mike Simpson was his football coach.

Honsinger recalls Melville used to teach history class in a helmet from the First World War in-character as Baron von Schlieffen, Honsinger recalled.

"I thought I could definitely see myself doing something like that,



St. Davids Public School's Grade 7 and 8 teacher Bryce Honsinger's passion for teaching and bringing life to the classroom earned him big honours. SUPPLIED

because I love history," he said.

To him, Simpson was not only a teacher and coach, but also mentor and academic who "lived in both worlds," Honsinger said.

The football coach left the high school after Honsinger's first semester of Grade 10: he was promoted to the role of vice principal at William

Hamilton Merritt Public School.

"I remember one day I went to pick up my marks after the first semester and he was gone ... I remember vividly thinking 'Oh my gosh he's gone,' and I realized how much I looked up to him," he said.

In terms of what teaching techniques he took from his mentors, Honsinger said it's better to ask the students

themselves.

"Let's put it this way: I want to be here," he said.

"Respect is key. Show the children respect and you get respect in return."

Honsinger said he also tries to find ways to keep the curriculum alive wherever possible, whether that be using technology in lessons or going on hands-on trips.

In celebration of his award, the school organized a party for Honsinger last week on Oct. 5.

"The school did it up like a champ," he said.

Students made flags and signs and a special assembly featured words from Honsinger's parents and wife.

He said it meant "so much" to be with the people he respects and cares about during this celebration.

"St. Davids is a special place: it's home."



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Happy 254th birthday, Brock



Jack Hill, 6, in costume as a Canadian soldier during a celebration of Maj-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock's 254th birthday at Queenston Heights on Friday. The afternoon was filled with historical lectures and tours. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

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Contributed by Patty Garriock

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or for some other time.

We are the ones we've been waiting for.

We are the change that we seek." - Barack Obama

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Editorial

An indoor swimming pool for NOTL

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

Who wants an indoor swimming pool in Niagara-on-the-Lake?

Perhaps the better question is: Who doesn't want an indoor swimming pool in Niagara-on-the-Lake?

The idea has been batted about in NOTL for many years, because, really, how could you not want the option of taking a regular dip in a modern, indoor facility, having your kids take swim lessons there or maybe trying some aquafit classes in the middle of January?

An ad hoc committee of residents has now grabbed the torch and through petitions, meetings and pitching the concept publicly has again tried to put an indoor pool on the civic agenda.

We have yet to hear anyone dismiss it as wholly unnecessary, though there has been a lot of pushback.

The main criticism seems to suggest that, while it's a nice idea, it is simply not an affordable option for a community the size of NOTL.

Yet, some similar-sized towns (and some smaller ones) have managed to make it happen.

We agree that affordability is a huge concern – NOTLers already pay a lot in property taxes and with

a tax base of only 19,000 residents (and fewer than 10,000 households). There is little room for expanding spending on a major capital project the magnitude of an indoor pool.

We're just too small.

Not too small for a spanking new pool, just too small to be able to afford one by dumping the full cost on the taxpayer.

However, that is not to suggest the proponents of a pool should give up or fold their proverbial tent.

Saying no is simple. Dismissing the idea as pie-in-the-sky is the easy route.

Finding ways to make things happen or to seek out alternatives requires a lot more effort and dedication.

Indoor pools are big-ticket items and cost figures like \$15 million to \$20 million (or more) are common for a facility with a 25-metre pool and related facilities.

Plus annual operating costs could easily be many hundreds of thousands of dollars. So, no matter how you look at it, an indoor pool in a municipality is pricey – even with grants from other levels of government to help with the initial build.

(Of course, there's also the matter of serious repairs needed to the aging outdoor pool in St. Davids, but that is a separate issue.)

Some have suggested that with the planned growth coming to NOTL's Glendale community – up to 15,000 people (or more) eventually – that would be a logical location for an indoor swimming facility, perhaps in conjunction with a high school proposed for that area.

An interesting idea, but years off.

So, what can be done in the meantime? We'd like to see the committee of indoor pool advocates continue their push for a solution – because maybe they'll find one. Nothing ventured ...

NOTL certainly has a lot of very smart residents with experience in a wide variety of fields. Let's tap into that expertise, crowdsource it.

Or perhaps a major developer – maybe a group of developers – in town could find a way to help kickstart such a project, or fund it all. You never know what might be possible. Toronto has mandated such contributions under section 37 of the Planning Act for years. Could NOTL do something similar?

Or maybe the more common route – community fundraising – is the way to go, launching a campaign to try to raise enough to make it a reality.

And then there's some outside-the-box thinking, as some have already noted and columnist Ross Robinson mentioned last week in passing: could Old Town's existing pool at Veterans Memorial Park be temporarily enclosed under a dome from, say, September to May?

Wild and unworkable? Maybe. Let's find out.

Because we know outdoor soccer pitches, tennis courts and golf ranges can be put under a bubble. So what about swimming pools?

Or is this an opportunity for a unique public-private partnership that would enable NOTL to make an indoor pool a reality? Nothing ventured ...

One final note: like many small towns, NOTL has a long tradition of the community coalescing over a common cause.

Our special little town has attracted more than its share of extremely successful individuals, with deep pockets, who might be inclined to give generously to a grassroots campaign to build an indoor pool in town.

That might not help with operational costs, but given the right approach maybe there is a way around that stumbling block, too.

Because, nothing ventured, nothing gained.

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Parking trouble in paradise

NOTL's parking meters are a challenge to operate, especially if you're unfamiliar with phone apps or from the U.S. and incur roaming charges for using mobile data. The town now has 57 meters that don't accept any form of credit card. The Lake Report has received several letters and calls about the meters, as well as complaints from frustrated shopkeepers who want the system to be easier for their potential customers.

ALPEREN ALBAYRAK/THE LAKE REPORT



Use accommodation tax to boost low-volume tourism

Letter of the week

Dear editor:

Niagara-on-the-Lake is undoubtedly a smart town with a rich history and an even brighter future.

However, the path to that future should be marked by the wisdom of sustainable tourism, which means not just attracting visitors, but welcoming those who come here to experience our town and become a part of its charm.

To achieve this, we propose the establishment of a designated marketing organization that encourages longer stays.

Our goal is to attract visitors who choose to park their cars or stay over and take their time to explore our forts, museums, enjoy the Shaw Festival, or savour the local wines.

The current situation of a town of 19,000 people hosting more than two million visitors a year who on average spend less than 60 minutes in town is not sustainable.

Sustainable tourism revolves around the idea of maintaining a healthy town life for our residents while

inviting guests to share in our cultural and natural treasures.

Unfortunately, the town's tourism strategy committee is exploring using taxpayer dollars to fuel high-volume tourism, resulting in more traffic congestion, parking issues, high taxes and overcrowding.

These are no longer prerequisites for our town's success.

We must question the

wisdom of spending taxpayer funds to cater to the short-term interests of a few businesses, ultimately risking our town's reputation by becoming more of a tourist trap.

Blindly pursuing tourism growth may lead us down a path of further commercialization, turning Queen Street into a charmless shadow of its former self.

It's essential to recognize that tourism has played a vital role in saving Niagara-

on-the-Lake, providing jobs and boosting property values when they were low.

However, the booming tourism industry has driven up housing costs, making it unaffordable for our own children to remain in town and forcing many non-residents into long commutes into town.

To address this, we propose that council members allocate the municipal accommodation tax exclusively to support low-volume tourism and address infrastructure gaps caused

by high-volume tourism.

We must refrain from using the tax for short-term, high-volume marketing efforts or extravagant vanity projects.

We call on our community to speak up and advocate for smart, sustainable tourism.

Let us prioritize quality over quantity, preserving the unique charm of Niagara-on-the-Lake for generations to come.

Bruce Gitelman
Residents for Sustainable Tourism

Columnist didn't deserve developer's wrath

Dear editor:

Wow! When developer Rainer Hummel goes off on someone, he really goes off.

I refer, of course, to his letter criticizing The Lake Report's longtime columnist Brian Marshall, ("Developer disagrees with columnist's viewpoints," Sept. 28).

The tone of Mr. Hummel's letter might be described as one part ticked-off, pistol-packing, rootin'-tootin' Yosemite Sam, mixed with an enraged Donald Duck, and served with a generous helping of Judge Judy on a bad day.

So what did Mr. Marshall do to invoke Mr. Hummel's wrath?

It seems he made it

known he disliked the developer's proposed design and scope for a hotel Mr. Hummel wishes to build on the property in the heritage district known as the Phillips Estate.

Does Mr. Marshall not understand that when a developer wants something, he should drop to one knee and say: "Yes, my liege," thus confirming the developer's "opinion" that, while he is a rich feudal superior, Mr. Marshall is naught but the equivalent of a poor vassal with little sway or means?

At the same time, all we have learned from Mr. Hummel is that he can count to four (storeys) and knows what he wants.

This reminds me of when

brilliant comedian Woody Allen decided to throw convention to the winds (and most of his reputation) and marry his step-daughter Soon-Yi Previn.

He defended his rather strange (and notably weird actions) by saying: "The heart wants what the heart wants."

Closer to home, Mr. Marshall needs to understand that: "The Hummel wants what the Hummel wants."

In fact, your esteemed columnist, who has amply demonstrated he has a superior knowledge and appreciation for our town's architecture, needs to be heard.

Whether he gained his knowledge through self-study and research rather

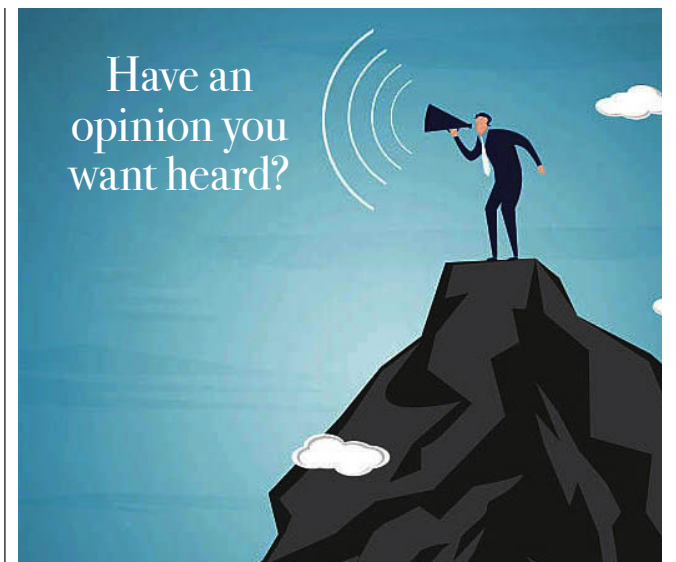
than formal training, matters not.

I find him exceptionally well-versed in whatever he writes and he certainly doesn't need a diploma to see when a four-storey, squared-off glass and concrete building in the heritage district fails to serve anything other than Mr. Hummel's profit margins.

So, what does Mr. Marshall get for his part in trying to preserve the integrity and character of our beautiful, historical town? Mr. Hummel tries to destroy his reputation and his credibility. Mr. Marshall deserves better.

To Mr. Marshall: Write on, sir, we love your work.

J. Richard Wright
NOTL



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



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Arts and Crafts movement introduces **creativity** to architecture



ARCHITEXT

Brian Marshall
Columnist

In last week's column we looked at the Canada-centric expression of Edwardian Classicism.

In that article, it was mentioned that during the latter part of the 19th century, "there was growing disaffection with what was seen as the excesses of high society. This general disaffection spurred new intellectual and artistic thought. In England, architects responded with two main and divergent schools of design, the first being Arts and Crafts, while the second was a return to classicism (principally English baroque)."

Now, since the impact of classicism on the built landscape of our region has been explored, it is only appropriate that an equal visit to the other architectural school – Arts and Crafts – is undertaken.

To begin, we must start with John Ruskin's 1851 treatise entitled "The Stones of Venice," which was written immediately after Prince Albert's Great Exhibition at the Crystal Palace showcasing the "marvels" of the British Industrial Revolution.

Ruskin, recognized as England's most influential art critic of that time, saw this as a celebration of the societal pressures that had directed the dehumanization of art and design through mass-produced decorative products, curtailing both individual creativity and artistic craftsmanship.

He wrote "The Stones of Venice" as a contrast and repudiation of what he viewed as the Industrial Revolution's boring crass materialism, with the artistic brilliance of artifacts produced during the apex of Venetian power.



The Horton House at 59 Yates St. in St. Catharines is one of Arthur Nicholson and Robert MacBeth's stellar English Arts and Crafts expressions in Niagara. There are no verified Nicholson & MacBeth homes in NOTL. BRIAN MARSHALL

The central tenets he espoused – that expressions of morality, art and nature were both intrinsically linked and completely dependent upon the mind, heart and craftsmanship of the unfettered and fully-trained artisan for full expression – resonated deeply with a radical group of English artists known as the Raphaelites.

While the Raphaelites may have formed the core adherents to Ruskin's treatise, it was not one of them who would convert these theories from words on paper into a movement that would impact the societies of the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada.

It was William Morris, who took Ruskin's philosophical tenets and translated them into the principles of the Arts and Crafts movement.

He was the primary driving force in establishing fine hand-wrought craftsmanship as being central to the movement.

It was he who established the medieval-styled guilds to produce high-quality, extremely successful furniture, stained glass, wall paper and textiles (often his own designs).

And it was Morris, in 1859, who commissioned the architect Phillip Webb to develop a residential

house based on Arts and Crafts principles.

Webb drew upon the informal, nonclassical forms and elements of England's medieval vernacular architecture filtered through the 19th-century lifestyle imperatives for the overall design.

“Unfortunately, there are no verified surviving Nicholson & MacBeth designs in Niagara-on-the-Lake; both the original Laura Secord school building and Greystone Manor in Queenston were pure Nicholson designs developed prior to 1921.”

Completed in 1860, it was a collaborative effort between Webb and Morris – a two-storey red brick dwelling with a high pitched red tile roof and tall chimneys.

It was set within a garden designed specifically to integrate the house into the landscape while the interior, largely designed by Morris himself, cel-

ebrated craftsmanship and unique artistry.

Now, while it embodied the tenets of Arts and Crafts, its simple, almost severe exterior presentation was viewed as radical by people used to the heavily ornamented styles of the time.

In fact, it fell to a later architect, Sir Edwin Lutyens, working in association with the brilliant landscape designs of Gertrude Jekyll, to develop the guiding design parameters for the Arts and Crafts architectural style.

These are parameters Charles Voysey would use to create the wildly popular English Cottage expression that would fuel the transport of Arts and Crafts architecture to North America.

In the United States, the idealization of the medieval in Arts and Crafts, as expressed by the English Cottage, simply didn't resonate with the prevailing sociopolitical ethos of the republic.

Instead, American proponents of Arts and Crafts focused on craftsmanship and use of local materials within a loose variety of individual designs.

In fact, it wasn't until the Greene Brothers of California developed the Craftsman interpretation that the Arts and Crafts style truly took off in the U.S.

Naturally, because of our close geographic association with the States, it was inevitable that the comparatively "cheap and cheerful" Craftsman interpretation would be imported and find popularity in Canada (see the Arch-i-text column "The NOTL craftsman" from June 23, 2022 for Niagara-on-the-Lake examples).

However, unlike in the U.S., the English Cottage expression had its own adherents amongst the general public and Canadian architects.

Perhaps foremost amongst these Canadian architects was the Niagara-based team of Arthur Nicholson and Robert MacBeth who, together between 1921 and 1931, created series of brilliant Arts and Crafts homes.

Arthur Nicholson, the son of an American immigrant to Canada, was admitted to the Ontario Association of Architects in 1905 and set up practice in his "hometown" becoming rapidly recognized for his talented classicist based designs.

Robert MacBeth, an architect in Scotland, immigrated to Canada during the second decade of the 20th Century and found a position as a draftsman in Nicholson's firm.

After spending a couple of years in this lowly posi-

tion, MacBeth moved to a firm in Toronto, but was very shortly drawn back to Niagara by an offer of partnership with Nicholson.

In 1921, the firm of Nicholson & MacBeth was established and the creative synergy between these two men was nothing short of remarkable.

That both men were highly gifted is undeniable, but studying the individual works of each, it can be suggested that Nicholson was inclined to be conservative in his designs while MacBeth was strongly inclined to push the boundaries of creative expression.

However, in the short decade of their partnership, it was the forged balance between their creative motivations, grounded in English Arts and Crafts, which resulted in an incredible architectural legacy.

Unfortunately, there are no verified surviving Nicholson & MacBeth designs in Niagara-on-the-Lake; both the original Laura Secord school building and Greystone Manor in Queenston were pure Nicholson designs developed prior to 1921.

That said, one doesn't have to go too far to bear witness to their stellar Arts and Crafts designs.

St. Catharines' Old Glen Ridge is replete with both the work of Nicholson individually and the partnership's expressions – the finest example of the latter being at 30 Glenridge Ave..

The Yates Historic District is a virtual treasure trove of their brilliant Arts and Crafts expressions – most notably, the Taylor House at 23 Yates St., the Riddle House at 52 Yates St. (including rear semi's at 19 & 21 Norris Pl.) and the Horton House at 59 Yates St..

There are 77 verified Nicholson & MacBeth survivors in Niagara which can be found in St. Catharines, Port Dalhousie, Welland and Port Colborne – each an Arts and Crafts marvel gracing the built Canadian landscape..

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



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Bikes for Farmworkers a way to give back to community

Continued from Front Page

from all walks of life with a wide range of career backgrounds. They include retired tech workers, doctors, consultants, university professors and teachers.

His job in the renovation business meant Blake was used to getting his hands dirty. His path to becoming part of the Bikes for Farm Workers group started off innocently enough – through an ad in the newspaper.

“They were looking for help and I’ve been working on bicycles all my life, including a lot of motorcycles, so I’m mechanically inclined to begin with,” he said. “I could spare a little time and get some help for the farm workers.”

There’s a certain amount of pride he feels knowing he is helping others.

“It’s good to help the community,” he said. “The guys really help us here. They leave their families behind for half a year.

Retired tech worker Gary Kapac said he has long been one to do his own repairs and that the Bikes for Farm



Left: Ken Eden replaces spokes on a wheel at the Bikes for Farmworkers workshop on Four Mile Creek Road. Right: Gary Kapac works on a bike. More are needed and the group is holding a drop-off on Oct. 21. RICHARD HUTTON



Workers program is a good way to put his learned skills to good use.

“I’ve always been a hands-on handyman throughout my life and this is just a natural progression,” he said as he worked on a finicky gear-shift lever.

Sometimes, fixing the bicycles can be difficult, he said.

“The challenge is fixing old damaged bikes with old used parts,” he said.

“Some bikes that are not suited for the migrant workers (road bicycles with skinny tires) and we’ll fix those up and sell them and with the proceeds, buy new parts that we fix bikes with new parts.”

Co-ordinating the group is

former NOTL fire chief Ken Eden, who says he is used to serving the community. He retired from the fire department in 2011 and is appreciative of all the volunteers who come out to help.

“We’ve been really blessed with great guys coming through the shop,” Eden said.

He joined the program

early on, working with Mark Gaudet and Terry Weiner, spearheading the initiative, and has never looked back.

“I was looking for something to do hands-on. I like working with my hands,” Eden said.

“I really empathize with the migrant workers and so this was a great venue for

me, and I just stuck with it.”

Since the program was established in 2016, demand for bikes and the numbers being donated has grown by leaps and bounds from 15 bikes repaired and 40 sold to 211 repaired and 361 sold this past summer.

“To be honest, we’re in a bit of a supply crunch right now,” Eden said. “But that’s pretty normal. Our supply goes up and down.

With that in mind, on Oct. 21, the group will be hosting a bicycle drop-off event at the shop, located inside the former Virgil Public School at 1665 Four Mile Creek Rd., from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The group is looking for adult-sized bicycles only, Eden said. Cash donations also are welcome.

Cheques can be made payable to Gateway Community Church, with instruction it be used for the Bikes for Farm Workers program.

Tax receipts will be issued during tax season for individual donations of more than \$20.

More information on the program can be found at gatewaynotl.com/bikes.



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'My Fair Lady' highlights Shaw playbill for 2024

Staff
The Lake Report

The Shaw Festival has revealed its lineup for the 2024 season, and topping its bill of works is the return of the timeless musical "My Fair Lady," alongside plays inspired by the stories of Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle, among several other productions.

This upcoming season, the 62nd in the festival's history, is set to kick off on April 6 and run until Dec. 22.

"Last season, we brought you an astonishing range of live performances in all our theatres – from new works, hidden gems and reimagined classics," said the Shaw's artistic director Tim Carroll in a media release.

This year, the Shaw will host a production of Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick



The Shaw Festival's popular production of "A Christmas Carol" returns again as part of the 2024 playbill, along with several other titles and Shaw classics. EMILY COOPER

Loewe's "My Fair Lady," "one of the few perfect musicals," Carroll said.

"My Fair Lady," the tale of Cockney girl Eliza Doolittle's transformation into a woman of Edwardian London society, will make its return to the Shaw stage on May 4. It will run at the Festival Theatre until the

season's close on Dec. 22.

This particular adaption of "My Fair Lady" borrows from both the original George Bernard Shaw stage play of 1913 and Gabriel Pascal's 1938 film "Pygmalion." Carroll is set to co-direct the show with Kimberley Rampersad.

Also set to hit the stage

at the Festival Theatre are "One Man, Two Guvvners," "the funniest show on the planet," said Carroll, and "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart," based on characters by Arthur Conan Doyle.

"One Man, Two Guvvners," will preview on June 6 and close on Oct.

13, while "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart" will preview July 24 and also close on Oct. 13.

The former play, a comedy in the style of 16th to 18th century Italian stage comedies, is the story of an out-of-work former musician in 1960s Brighton who works for two different bosses – and does everything he can to keep the two from meeting.

The latter play, which marks the third time the master of deduction has appeared on the Shaw's stage, sees Holmes meeting his match in a compelling and lethal villain, in a new work by Reginald Candy.

Over at the Royal George Theatre on Queen Street, "Witness for the Prosecution" will debut on April 6. It is an adaptation of Agatha

Christie's short story "Traitor's Hands" directed by Alistair Newton.

Other works Shaw Festival attendees can check out starting in the spring and summer of 2024 are "The Secret Garden," previewing May 31, Bernard Shaw's "Candida," previewing July 13 Michael Man's adaptation of "The Orphan of Chao," a lunchtime one-act production, previewing June 13. All of these works will be presented at the Royal George Theatre.

Two Canadian works premiering at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre are Marcus Gardley's "The House That Will Not Stand," on June 12, and Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig's "Snow in Midsummer," on Aug. 8.

For more information about the Shaw Festival, visit shawfest.com.

The Mom Project tells the eternal story of time and aging



Mark Crofton Bell captures the last months of his mother's life in a series of portrait studies now on display at RiverBrink until late January. JULIA SACCO

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Toronto-based artist Mark Crofton Bell's latest exhibition in Niagara-on-the-Lake aims to capture moments in time spent with his mother, who resided in a long-term care facility for the last five years of her life.

"I realized that my mother was aging and that she wasn't going to be with me forever, so I wanted to make a painting that would sort of represent who she is," Crofton Bell told The Lake Report.

The exhibition, titled The Mom Project, had its opening reception last week at RiverBrink and allowed visitors to follow the

chronological order of the portraits and chat with the artist himself.

Crofton Bell explained that his original goal with the series was to explore his ability as a portrait painter, something in which he doesn't usually specialize.

"That wasn't really working and I realized that my strength wasn't going to be in this one painting that I had in my head, but rather was going to be in the process and the journey," he said.

Crofton Bell said he decided to stick to small format paintings that he could complete in the short time allocated to his visits to his mom, with slightly larger canvases

occupying his Sundays when he could stay for more than two hours.

"It was really important to me that the paintings be completed in one sitting in the time that we had together because it was very much about spending time together than it was about making the painting," he said.

The series concludes with a depiction of his mother's passing. Showing death in art is a tradition that Crofton Bell says has been lost in recent years.

"The last 100 years it hasn't been popular, but it's as much about the living as it is about the dying," he said.

Cambridge Bell has

shown his exhibition at venues including the Cambridge Art Gallery, which he cited as a "beautiful space." However, he said he finds RiverBrink to be a perfect space for the vibe of the series.

"It's nice to be able to show in this context, where it's a little more domestic feeling with the wood, the warmth of the woods," he said.

"The fact that this is a house seemed to work with the paintings in a way that we wouldn't get in a conventional art gallery."

The Mom Project will be on display at RiverBrink until Jan. 27. For more information, visit riverbrink.org/current-exhibitions.html.

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Author discovers her **Mennonite roots** on cross-Canada summer trek

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

For Niagara-on-the-Lake author MJ Krause Chivers, her road trip across the country this past summer was about more than just sightseeing.

“It was a self-discovery, spiritual journey. Definitely a psychological journey,” Krause Chivers told The Lake Report.

She and several other people from across Canada embarked on the Russlaender 100 Tour, a cross-Canada train journey that made stops at historically significant places for Mennonite-Canadians and marked the 100-year anniversary of the Mennonite community’s mass migration from the Soviet Union to Canada.

Krause Chivers took this trip as a means of getting in touch with her grandparents’ traumatic history: they were among 21,000 Mennonites who left Soviet Ukraine between 1923 and 1929 because of violence, famine and the 1917 flu epidemic back home.

“I have not been part of the religious part of the Mennonite community since I left Manitoba in 1987, so I just never reconnected with it,” she said.

Her family’s background is a mix of ethnic Mennonites from Russia: she is three-fourths Russlaender, the name for those who emigrated during the 1920s, and one-fourth Kanadier, the name for those who emigrated during the 1870s.

Krause Chivers moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake eight years ago, she was amazed



MJ Krause Chivers, left, is photographed in Edmonton’s Ukrainian Heritage Village alongside Dr. Nataliya Venger and Dr. Aileen Frieson. It was one stop on Krause-Chivers’ cross-Canada journey. SUPPLIED

by the large Mennonite community and began a journey of reconnecting with her heritage.

In 2014 after her father’s death, Krause Chivers visited Poland and Ukraine to see ancestral grounds and learn more about the history of what Mennonites were and their process of gaining religious freedom.

In an email, Krause Chivers wrote that the hearing about the war in Ukraine in 2022 “bared (her) ancestral wounds.”

The Russlaender 100 trek helped Krause Chivers draw a line of connection between that long history and her own family.

“Understanding your

family history also ends with understanding the ethnic and cultural roots of our background as well as understanding more about what my grandparents actually went through and the sacrifices they made to come to Canada,” Krause-Chivers said.

“Most people couldn’t afford this trip and I’m very lucky that my retirement savings allowed me to do this,” she added.

The trip, which began in Quebec, included stops in the historical Grosse Isle outside of Quebec City, where immigrants would have stopped for mandatory pre-immigration disease inspection.

There were other poignant stops, such as Conrad Grebel University in Waterloo, the town of Rosthern, Sask., where her grandfather exited the train in 1924 and the Mennonite Heritage Museum in Abbotsford, B.C., where the trek concluded.

With only 22 people on the July trek, she said, she was fully immersed in the experience and bonded with all of her fellow travellers – who shared similar backgrounds.

As a historical fiction writer, she added, not only will the experience of the trip help with her own understanding of her genealogy, but it will also lend itself to her work.

“I’m actually writing about a girl growing up in Ukraine during the Civil War and it’s a continuing series,” she said.

“I’m going to keep writing the story and it will follow my grandparent’s journey through the immigration process. The historical stuff is fairly accurate,” she added.

She said that a fellow historical fiction author reached out recently to compliment her historical accuracy.

Krause Chivers’ days of travelling will not end here, though.

“I booked another trip to Europe next June,” she said. “I’ll be exploring the history that goes back to the Anabaptist Revolution and the formation and beginning of the Mennonite Church.”

Krause Chivers’ latest book, “Katarina’s Dark Journey,” is available now at author.mjchivers.com.



This week’s riddle is “Jeopardy!” style.
Category: TV SHOW OPENING CREDITS

A drive down the scenic New Jersey Turnpike passes Satriale’s & Pizzaland before ending at a suburban home.

Last issue:

Category: FAMOUS LAST WORDS

Clue: The final part of a musical piece, it was used as a title for Led Zeppelin’s final album of studio recordings.

Answer: What is a Coda?

Answered first by: Claudia Grimwood

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Susan Hamilton, Lynda Collet, Bob Wheatley, Pam Dowling, Jim Dandy, Marjory Walker-Barone, Wade Durling, Ted Wiens, Kristin Lingerfelt, Elaine Landray, Sheila Meloche

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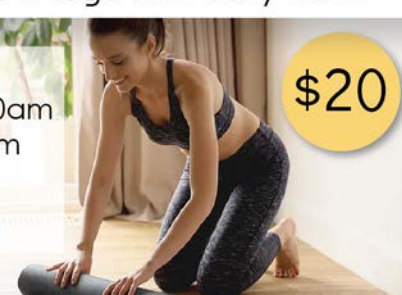
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Indigenous arts festival receives national nod

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

For years, many have felt there is a gap between significant issues taking place in Indigenous communities across Canada and what the general public, primarily non-Indigenous people, knows of them.

However, Tim Johnson, a Mohawk man who works in Niagara-on-the-Lake, says he believes the awareness of Indigenous issues has grown exponentially over the years.

Known for his work as a Shaw board member, Johnson has been in a unique position to watch the Indigenous community build relationships with Niagara's towns.

"I remember meeting with mayors and various other political representatives who knew little about Indigenous issues," he said.

That was about seven years ago, before he started his work on the Celebration of Nations festival which takes place every September in St. Catharines.

The city of St. Catharines and the FirstOntario

Performing Arts Centre put on the project together each year.

He and Michele-Elise Burnett, president of Indigenous art consultancy Kakekalanicks Inc., are the artistic directors of the festival.

The arts and culture event received a national award from the Creative City Network of Canada on Oct. 5.

The Creative City Network of Canada awards municipalities for excellence in cultural programming every year.

Johnson and Burnett joined Cathleen Smith, the performance centre's chief executive, in St. John's, N.L., to receive it.

Johnson recalls the town and performance centre "received the idea of the Celebration of Nations very openly" seven years ago.

In a press release, Smith said when the project was first proposed, the entire team at the centre "rallied together" in support.

"Since the initial gathering, Celebration of Nations continues to be a source of pride for local leaders, city staff, councillors and com-



From left, Carly Anderson, Tim Johnson, Michele-Elise Burnett and Colleen Smith accept the award from the Creative City Network of Canada for their work on the Celebration of Nations festival that took place in September in St. Catharines. SUPPLIED

munity members," she said.

In the seven years since the event first began, Johnson says a lot has changed.

Many towns have adopted diversity and equity mandates.

Johnson said many of these grew out of the 94 calls to action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

"I can tell you that a lot of leaders are taking that very seriously," he said.

The Environics Institute published a report in fall 2021 comparing the results

of two surveys they conducted in 2016 and 2021 that asked Canadians to describe, in their own words, what first comes to mind when they think of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

According to the report, in 2021, 28 per cent of respondents mentioned mistreatment or abuse as the first thing that comes to mind, compared to 17 per cent in 2016.

Similarly, 10 per cent mentioned residential schools or the removal of children, compared to two

per cent in 2016.

The report states that in the 2016 survey, "several of the top responses were worded in general terms": mentioning Indigenous peoples as the first inhabitants or noting Indigenous history or culture.

Comparatively, in the 2021 survey, the report states, "fewer answer in these general terms, and more mention mistreatment, abuse or residential schools specifically."

Johnson, who spent 10 years managing the Nation-

al Museum of the American Museum at the Smithsonian in New York City, said his approach to Celebration of Nations was inspired by one of the exhibits there.

The exhibit, Up Where We Belong, showcased the contributions of Indigenous people to a variety of musical genres throughout history.

"When we hit upon that stream, we realized that we really had found something here that would resonate not just with an indigenous audience, but with a mainstream audience as well," Johnson said.

The lesson they learned at the Smithsonian has continued to serve him at Celebration of Nations, where Indigenous artists' works are main attractions for Indigenous and non-Indigenous audiences alike.

Johnson said the festival has served as a powerful "springboard" to encourage public awareness of Indigenous art and culture.

In a press release, Burnett, a Métis woman with Algonquin roots, said she was proud to see the festival's growth since its inception.

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Summer program helped NOTL students **launch businesses**

Maddy Gordon
The Lake Report

In the beginning, video production was just an amusing pastime for Preston Sibley.

He started Sibp55 Productions three years ago, after undergoing heart surgery and thus being in need of a new hobby.

“At that point, I was just making videos for fun,” he told The Lake Report.

Fast-forward three years, the 18-year-old student from Niagara-on-the-Lake is now diving head-first into the world of business.

“This year, I decided to expand my knowledge and see how this passion project can benefit others,” he said.

He heard about the Ontario Summer Company Program last winter through his peers and decided to apply.

Sibley is one of two NOTL students who was selected and took part in the provincial summer program, which aims to help young



Left: Seventeen-year-old Luke Midgley's business Simply Electric offers various lawn care services. JULIA SACCO

Right: Preston Sibley, 18, started his video production company after having heart surgery three years ago. SUPPLIED

people reach their entrepreneurial goals.

The program provides students with training, mentorship and a micro-grant of up to \$3,000 to support their businesses.

Sibley's company, Sibp55 Productions specializes in video production and photography, offering a variety of services like music videos, promotional content and wedding shoots.

He said he most enjoyed meeting new people and helping to turn their ideas into reality.

“Connecting with clients and taking what they envisioned and making it happen is my favourite part,” he said.

The other student chosen was 17-year-old Luke Midgley. His business, Simply Electric, offers lawn care and yard cleanup services



with a focus on environmentally friendly equipment.

By using electrical power to operate equipment rather than gas-powered machines, Midgley is minimizing his carbon footprint while also producing less noise and mess on the job.

“I think we all need to start focusing more on being eco-friendly, because we're headed in the wrong direction,” said Midgley.

The Eden High School student explained that lawn mowers produce significant carbon emissions, while battery-powered machines are more environmentally friendly and are more effective.

Midgley learned about the program through his business teacher, Holly Etherington, and knew he had to give it a shot.

“The best part of the

program is being a part of the community it brings, and not just the staff but the other students as well. We can bounce ideas off each other and help motivate one another,” he said.

The provincial program is delivered locally by the Niagara Falls Small Business Enterprise Centre.

Dean Spironello, a representative of the centre, said the program gives students hands-on experience in running a business, allowing them to be creative and grow as entrepreneurs.

“What stood out to me about Preston and Luke is their willingness to experiment with new strategies and being open-minded to trying new things when it comes to growing their businesses,” Spironello said.

“We're really looking for young people who are self-starters and who are motivated to put their best foot forward,” he added.

Applications for the 2024 annual program open in the spring.

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Two NOTL teams compete in Sixes lacrosse tourney

Staff
The Lake Report

Two Niagara-on-the-Lake minor lacrosse teams travelled to Brampton on Thanksgiving weekend to participate in a new form of the game, called Sixes.

The U9 and U11 Niagara Thunderhawks competed in the first Ontario Lacrosse Sixes tournament, a hybrid version of field and box across that features six players a side, playing outdoors on a smaller field.

Teams play four eight-minute quarters.

“This tournament was the first time Sixes games have ever been played in Ontario, a huge advancement for the game,” said Tracey Hope, a spokesperson for the U9 team.

“It was definitely a challenge during our first game to get used to the new rules and style of play compared to box lacrosse,” she said.

“But the players were

quick to pick it up and turned out to be a great day.”

The U9 Thunderhawks won three of their four games, losing their first game 13-5 to Clarington-1 and then bouncing back for wins against Clarington-2 (8-4), Peterborough (12-6) and Owen Sound (12-9).

They were tied with Orangeville for a spot to compete in the final but lost out on a tie-breaker based on goal differential.

The U9 team is coached by Jared Hope, James Sticca and Matt Dietsch. Players participating included: Rily Hill, Bennett Hope, Ryan Riddle, Lucas Frosese, Colton Dietsch, Daniel Canning, Noah Scaringi, Elliott Epp, Brock Friesen, Nico Mirabella, Theo Moore, Reed Francis, Sydney Herriman, Noah Sticca, Weston Stewart and Ethan Sticca.

The U11 Thunderhawks, coached by Jay Thorimbert and Jason Meleskie, faced



Members of the U9 Thunderhawks ham it up after their 12-6 win over Peterborough. MARCY HERRIMAN

PHOTO GALLERY
See more pictures at niagaranow.com

some stiff competition, defeating Orangeville 19-9 in their first match but losing games to Whitby (26-8)

and to Toronto Beaches twice (18-12, 17-14).

Participating players were: Owen Thorim-

bert, Nash Funk, Charlie Fratangelo, Peter Kotsanis, Colton Meleskie, Hunter Berry, Bentley

Berry, Sylas Hill, Jaxson Good, Nicholas Riddle, Blake Bedic and Jesiah Paul.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

INSTALLATION OF AN ALL-WAY STOP AT THE INTERSECTION OF CONCESSION 2 ROAD AND LINE 3 ROAD



NOTICE is hereby given that the Council of the Corporation of the Town Niagara-on-the-Lake has amended By-Law 4308-09 to establish an **all-way stop** at the intersection of Concession 2 Road and Line 3 Road.

Currently, only east and west bound traffic on Line 3 Road is required to stop. Based on the amended By-Law, now drivers travelling north and south bound on Concession 2 Road are required to stop as well.

Drivers are urged to use extra caution at this intersection as traffic adjusts to the new stop signs.

New stop signs will be erected on October 17, 2023, and enforcement of the all-way stop will commence immediately upon installation.

Those with questions are encouraged to contact Marci Weston, Traffic Engineering Technologist for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake by emailing marci.weston@notl.com or calling (905) 468-3266.



NOTL swimmers honoured by council

Top: Members of the NOTL swim team, the Electrifying Eels, are celebrated for their second-place performance at the region's swimming competition. Bottom: Lev Steacie Prokipchuk shakes hands with Coun. Sandra O'Connor after he and his fellow swimmers were congratulated for their accomplishments. EVAN LOREE

Big dogs in WOOFs league



The NOTL Golf Club's Tuesday WOOFs league honoured its top players this year. Pictured from left are Top Dog WOOFs champ Glen Murray, Woofers Cup winner Jim Meszaros, league organizer Bill Katrynyuk and Bill Garriock, the Golden Dog champ, for players over 80. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Predators lose 3-2, but coach happy with performance

Kevan Dowd
The Lake Report

It is not often that a coach can easily take a loss in stride, but that is exactly what Niagara Jr. A Predators head coach Kevin Taylor did on Friday night.

Despite a 3-2 loss at home to the Durham Roadrunners – who last season finished second in the Greater Metro Hockey League's south division – Taylor and his team are feeling pretty good about themselves.

"It thought we outplayed them," Taylor said afterward.

"They outshot us in the second period from what I understand but I didn't think they were dominant by any means."

Indeed, the Roadrunners outshot the Predators 23-13 in the second – and 50-32 on the game – but Durham only really dominated in the middle frame.

It also helped the Roadrunners fight back from a two-goal deficit and tie it up before the end of the second.

That early lead came courtesy Shane Kaplan, who managed a pair of first-period tallies. Meanwhile, it would take just shy of 32 minutes for Durham to make it onto the scoreboard,



Shane Kaplan celebrates one of his two first-period goals while teammate Ethan Culp takes a crosscheck from Durham defenceman Cole Harvey. The team lost the home game 3-2 to the Durham Roadrunners. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

with their second goal coming seven minutes later.

But Durham's Zach Burns would ultimately get the decision-maker shorthanded, slipping one past Zane Clausen on a breakaway with just under eight minutes left on the clock.

Clausen's 47 stops on the night earned him first star honours.

"I told them, I thought they played well tonight, I'm happy with the way they played," said Taylor. "I'm never going to be happy with a loss. I'm disappointed with the loss but happy with the performance."

Taylor thinks the difference between his team and the Roadrunners is Durham "knows how to win," mostly

by capitalizing on their opponent's mistakes. But the closeness of the game has him feeling optimistic.

"We can compete with this team," he said. "I didn't think we'd win this game. I didn't think it'd be even close and I think we outplayed them," he said.

"It's a disappointing loss, we deserved to win

but when you play against teams that have the skill and have the willpower to win, they come out," he said.

"We're still young and we just don't know how to do it yet. We were up two-nothing and we let them back in."

Friday's game was only Niagara's fourth of the season in four weeks –

mostly due to their only away game in that time being cancelled.

This weekend had promised to be their first case all season of playing back-to-back games, with a road game against the Northumberland Stars scheduled for last Saturday. But the hockey gods had other plans.

"The ice melted," said Taylor.

A breakdown in Northumberland's refrigeration system means the Predators will go yet another full week between games.

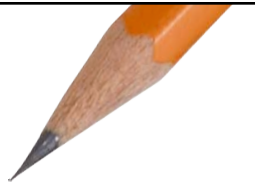
The long stretches have had a negative impact on the Predators' discipline in the past, but Taylor thinks his team is improving in that aspect.

"It's just trying to keep focused – this one week between games is just terrible," he said. "But they worked hard and kept their focus this week."

"I think it showed tonight. It was an entertaining game to watch. We just came out on the losing end of it."

The Predators play their second game of the season against the St. George Ravens this Friday, Oct. 13, looking for a second win against them. Game time at the Meridian Credit Union Arena is 7:30 p.m.

Have some fun

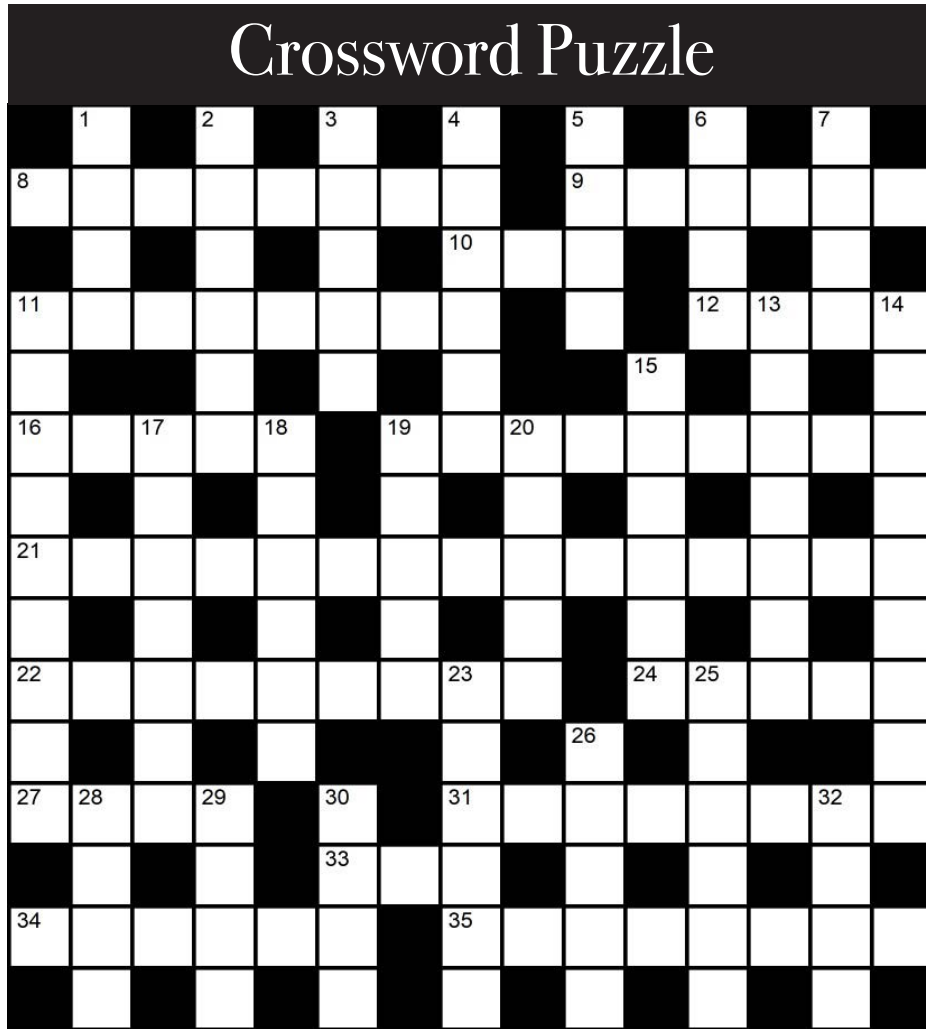


Across

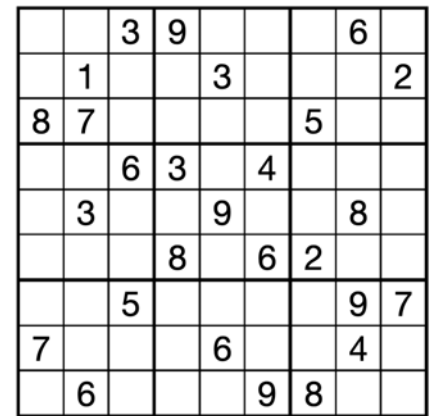
- 8. Precision (8)
- 9. Freezing compartment (6)
- 10. Baste (3)
- 11. Drown Aunt Enid in a fluster (8)
- 12. Former U N leader --- Annan (4)
- 16. Tuscany province (5)
- 19. Out of shot (3,6)
- 21. Throughout the world (15)
- 22. Perceptive (5-4)
- 24. Pigment made from cuttlefish ink (5)
- 27. Gets the point (4)
- 31. Drive out (8)
- 33. US Confederate general (3)
- 34. Fine plaster (6)
- 35. Postponing (8)

Down

- 1. Scrutinize (4)
- 2. Hit the sack (4,2)
- 3. 200 milligrams to a jeweller (5)
- 4. What I normally see in a mirror (6)
- 5. Fruit-bearing Chinese vine (4)
- 6. Hit this to get going (4)
- 7. Dance (4)
- 11. Inborn patterns of behaviour (9)
- 13. Venn diagram common area (7)
- 14. No matter what (2,3,4)
- 15. Twits (6)
- 17. Far-out (7)
- 18. First light (6)
- 19. One end of a fallopian tube (5)
- 20. Cooked in oil (5)
- 23. Beneficiary of primogeniture (6)
- 25. Unfold (6)
- 26. Posed (5)
- 28. Corrodes (4)
- 29. Fortified white Spanish wine of old (4)
- 30. Drama framework (4)
- 32. Characteristic carrier (4)



Last issue's answers



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NOTL's Nobel series explores important territory



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Columnist

The Nobel series, an annual November-December review of the year's Nobel Prizes announced in October, has been a success for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library since it began in 2017.

Sometimes it's possible to guess upcoming winners, especially in 2020, given how hot gene editing had been for a decade.

In the same year, black holes were highlighted because in 2019 the first-ever black hole was photographed – concrete proof they actually exist.

The tragedy was that Stephen Hawking, who made several important discoveries about black holes (including that they leak and probably fizzle out), missed

out on a share of the Nobel Prize.

He died before the prize was awarded and the Nobel committee does not award posthumous prizes unless the winner dies between the announcement and the ceremony.

Looking back over NOTL's Nobel series, several prizes stand out because of the originality of the body of work required to solve some of nature's major mysteries.

A prime example was the 2017 physics prize shared by Rainer Weiss, Barry Barish and Kip Thorne for their "decisive contributions to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves."

The gravitational waves referred to are wave-like ripples in the space-time fabric of the universe triggered by major events in the universe, such as the collision of two black holes in 2015.

But so far, no gravitational waves have been found related to the explosive inflationary period of expansion of the universe within a tiny fraction of the first second



of the Big Bang.

Gravitational waves were one of many outcomes of Einstein's equations for general relativity in 1915-16. However, many physicists, including Einstein, thought any signals generated by such waves – however violent their beginning – would be too faint to be detected.

That was true at the time, but the three laureates, with the help of hundreds of scientists and engineers around the world, built devices that were sensitive and accurate

enough to detect gravitational waves.

The whole project took more than 30 years and consistent funding from the U.S. Congress – no easy matter then and more far more challenging in these divided times.

Like so many products of Einstein's fertile mind (such as black holes and gravitational lensing which made it possible to see stars and even galaxies otherwise hidden from view), it took the efforts of many later scientists to exploit his discoveries, which Einstein didn't always initially welcome.

My second favourite year was 2020, when the Nobel in chemistry was awarded to Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier for their pioneering work on gene editing.

Their work on the molecular systems of bacteria led to development of a relatively simple and highly accurate tool for modifying genes and offers enormous potential for treating many hereditary and acquired diseases in humans.

In the same year, the Nobel in physics was awarded

to mathematician and theoretical physicist Roger Penrose for his work building on that of Einstein and others related to black holes.

Physics has always been my favourite Nobel Prize because of the scales on which physics operates – from the level of the universe and even multiverses to subatomic physics and the realization that physics underpins everything else. Quantum mechanics is at the heart of chemistry and by extension all of biochemistry – and hence life itself.

That perspective and the fact physics has two parents, one theoretical (personified by the likes of Einstein, Bohr, Heisenberg and Born) and by experimenters (such as the Curies, Rutherford and Chadwick in the first generation).

Such division persists to this day and was highlighted by last year's Nobel in physics, which was a successful experimental challenge to Einstein's much earlier challenge to quantum mechanics based on his notion that "entanglement of two or more particles at a distance" made no sense.

By that he meant a change in the property of one particle in an entangled pair, was instantaneously accompanied by an identical change in other entangled particles, no matter the distance between them.

Einstein may have been wrong on that one but rarely have other physicists thought as deeply as Einstein, and in the end, he may turn out to be correct. Quantum mechanics may not be the whole story and Einstein's insistence on causality may eventually trump Heisenberg's "uncertainty principle."

That's a small taste of what's in store this year. The series gets better each year because the material becomes more familiar and the culture of science a little less opaque. Science is an acquired taste and rewards its pursuers generously.

That's been my experience and hopefully will be yours.

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

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EXPLORING PHOTOS WITH NOTL MUSEUM



Battle of Queenston Heights, Oct. 13, 1812

This engraving by T. Sutherland, circa 1880, shows American troops (blue uniforms) crossing the Niagara River at Queenston to fight the British (red uniforms) in October 1812. The Battle of Queenston Heights was the first major engagement in Niagara. American Gen. Stephen Van Rensselaer assembled an army at Lewiston and Maj.-Gen. Isaac Brock knew an invasion was imminent. In the predawn hours of Oct. 13, the U.S. launched an attack at Queenston with about 613 American regulars and 740 New York militia. The Americans climbed the heights and captured the Redan Battery, situated partway up the escarpment. When Brock arrived, he tried to retake the Redan but an American soldier shot and killed him. While leading a second charge, Brock's aide-de-camp, Lt.-Col. John Macdonell was also shot: he died afterward, on Oct. 14. As dawn broke, the U.S. had taken control of the heights and British and Canadian troops had retreated just north of Queenston. Now in command, Maj.-Gen. Roger Hale Sheaffe arrived from Fort George with reinforcements, including 100 First Nations warriors led by John Norton and John Brant. Norton's warriors applied guerrilla warfare tactics and attacked the U.S. forces from behind. The Americans, with little room to retreat, were forced down the steep heights. Making matters worse, the New York militia declared their constitutional right to fight only in the U.S. and refused to cross the river. More British forces were coming and the fierce cries of the native warriors struck them with fear. Finally, the Americans surrendered. At least 230 Americans had been either killed or wounded and 925 men had been taken prisoner. The British, Canadian and First Nations allies suffered fewer than 100 casualties, 19 of whom were killed in action, including their leader, Isaac Brock.

Niagara-on-the-Lake could **learn** a thing or two from the Swiss



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
Columnist

An eventful 41 years ago, it was my good fortune to spend a lot of time in and around Interlaken, Switzerland (pronounced Interlochen, not Interlaken.)

It is a very old Swiss town that has evolved into a tourist mecca, about the same population as the Old Town of our Niagara paradise.

Situated between the Thunersee and the Brienzensee, the influence of these two lakes can be roughly compared to our nearby Lake Ontario and our Niagara River.

My observations then, and the lessons and attitudes I took away, have been part of my persona ever since.

Indeed, in 1982 I told my

Swiss pal Hans Peter Reber that I was going to return to Montreal, sell up and move to the Berner Oberland permanently. His intuitive and wise counsel then was, "Herr Robinson, you could not live here, because in Switzerland, if it is not compulsory, it is illegal."

I always read the local weekly newspapers from cover to cover, and often relate our NOTL issues to the situation in and around Interlaken. I do this subconsciously and my opinions flow from my background.

For example, we are now trying to decide whether a traffic circle or a red light would be best for St. Davids. My goodness, Swiss traffic specialists settled on traffic circles so many years ago. As did the Australians, British, French, Germans and the list goes on

An indoor pool? Interlaken figured out that partnerships are the way to go. How about Pleasant Manor or one of our major hotels working with our town staff and politicians to share the capital costs and future maintenance obligations?

The seemingly endless



Downtown Interlaken. SOURCED

road construction on Highway 55, on the way to Old Town? Swiss road builders get in and get out, with the least traffic disruption possible.

Noisy cars, trucks and motorcycles clogging up Queen Street on summer weekend days? Dictate the rules and stop pussy-footing around the issue. Set a maximum decibel level and enforce the rule.

Noisy garbage and recycling trucks cheapening the tourist experience? Again,

frame the tender process to provide the optimum visitor experience. No noisy and idling trucks between 10 and 3 on weekends.

The lack of a pedestrian crosswalk on Queen Street is a serious and sad accident waiting to happen.

When will a crosswalk be installed somewhere around the post office and the ValuMart? (I know, I know, the Independent.)

This will be the same story as when the NHL will finally ban fighting. The late

visionary Ralph Mellanby told me many times, "When somebody gets killed in an NHL game fight, fighting will be banned within a month. Two months later, fans will be asking, 'Did there used to be fighting in the NHL?'"

Please, for the safety of NOTLers and visitors, install a crosswalk or two on Queen Street.

How about the angst surrounding wine and other alcoholic beverages in our public parks. My goodness folks, please don't tell my Swiss or Australian or French friends we are even discussing this issue in the year 2023. This is absurd, in the heart of Canada's best-known wine district.

Noise from concerts and short-term rental accommodations? In Switzerland, way back in the late 1970s, the only noise issue was during the weekend when Swiss men were yodelling up the Lauterbrunnen valley to Mürren to the Piz Gloria.

Various contests were organized to determine the winner of the annual Schweinhunde Punkte contests. Creativity and endurance

were keys to victory, with the younger folks having the advantage.

I often think of the practicality of the Swiss people. My pal Max Oehrli owned a Swiss clock and souvenir shop on the Bahnhofplatz.

As more and more nationalities arrived to shop, he kept learning languages. Back in 1980, he could sell in seven languages. Probably more now. He and his wife Els and their children Marco and Suzie react to changing times.

The rusty and derelict Toronto Star box that has been a sad fixture on Mary Street, in front of the Tim Hortons for at least seven years, is never used at all. That would never happen in Interlaken, or for that matter, anywhere in Switzerland.

I know Switzerland is a small country and therefore easy to manage. But if Switzerland was flattened out, it would be among the largest countries in the world.

Remember, in Switzerland, "if it is not illegal it is compulsory."

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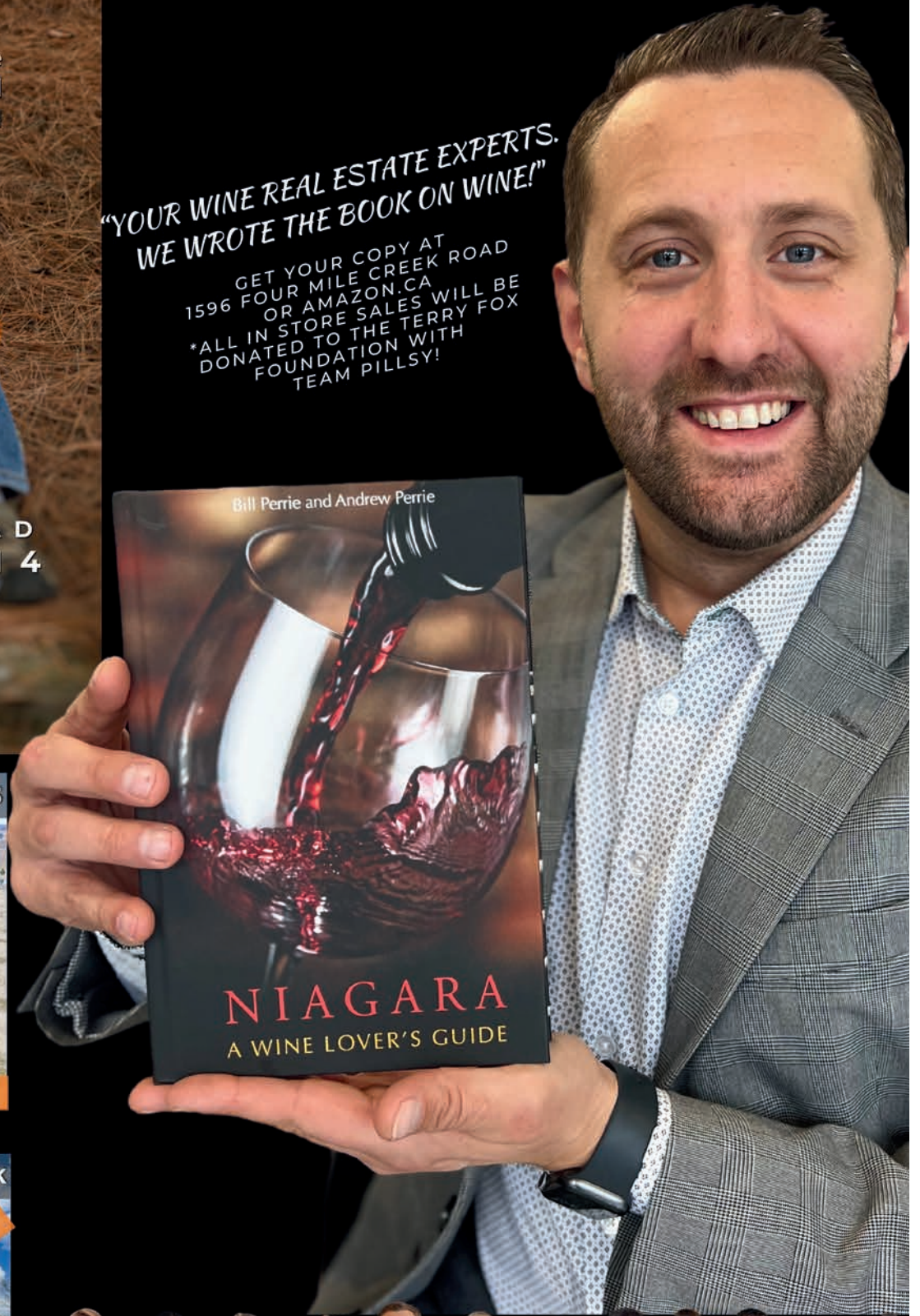
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PURCHASED



Handy tips for caring for your roses in the fall



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Columnist

The beautiful, classic rose has captivated people's attention for centuries. From inspiring countless poets, composers, song-writers and artists to just being adored by many gardeners and non-gardeners alike, the rose is one of the most loved flowers of all time.

As beautiful and admired as rose flowers are, pruning roses seems to be one of those many mysteries of gardening.

If you have roses, you probably know that they do require some maintenance to keep them growing healthy, but what does that actually look like?

There are always differing opinions on this subject, but here is what makes the most sense to me when it comes to caring for your roses in the fall.



Left: Raindrops on roses (but no whiskers or kittens). Right: A double delight rose. JOANNE YOUNG



I know that there are people who always prune their roses down short in the fall.

I also know that there are some of you that will disagree with what I am about to say, but there are several reasons why I do not recommend that you do any pruning on your roses before winter.

If you have grown roses yourself, you will know that roses have trouble going dormant in the late fall and winter.

Depending on the temperatures, you will often see them still blooming and still having green leaves into December.

During the summer months, we want to keep deadheading spent blooms to encourage the plant to keep producing flowers throughout the season.

As fall sets in though, we want to stop encouraging the plants from producing new growth and blooming.

Any new growth produced into the fall may not have enough time to harden off properly before the freezing temperatures, which will cause damage.

Because of this, you should always let the last flowers of the fall remain on the plant. This signals to the rose bush that it is time for them to go dormant for

the winter.

A plant's job or purpose is to produce seed so that it can reproduce itself.

By removing a plant's flower, you are also removing its seed. A plant knows that its seed has been taken and will produce more flowers to produce more seed.

This is good to know earlier in the summer with not only your roses but also with any flowering plant to keep them performing.

Come fall, we want the rose to go into dormancy to protect itself from cold temperatures, so we need to stop pruning them.

Do not prune roses at

this time unless canes are so tall that they will be damaged in the winter.

The best time to prune your roses is the late dormant period, in early spring, just as the leaf buds are starting to swell.

A good indicator of the proper pruning time is when the forsythia plants come into bloom.

Another frequently asked question is whether you need to hill up your roses for the winter.

Hilling up your roses is a process where the graft area of the rose plant with soil or mulch. With roses, the graft is usually just planted above the soil are.

The graft area of the rose is the most sensitive part of the plant, so by mounding soil or mulch over the graft area it protects the rose even further.

Over the years, I have not noticed that hilling has improved the success rate of overwintering the roses.

Where people go wrong with the hilling process is that they hill up their roses way too early in the season.

When hilling the graft area, you want the plant to be in a dormant stage first.

If you hill up the roses before they are dormant, you are keeping them from going dormant, which is not what you want to happen.

If you prevent them from going dormant and we get a warm spell in February, you will find that their buds will start to swell and begin to grow.

Then we get a cold spell in March and that new growth gets damaged by the low temperatures causing the canes to die back.

So, the most loving thing that you can do for your roses at this time of year is just to leave them be.

Just take time to smell the flowers!

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

Walker's Market pies help Newark Neighbours make Thanksgiving a little sweeter for those in need

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Walker's Country Market has been donating pies to Newark Neighbours each holiday season for the past 10 years now – and Walker's participation continues to grow along with the community's need.

For Thanksgiving this year Cindy Grant, along with the helping hands of other volunteers, assembled 82 baskets of food for families in need.

Each basket included the client's choice of either a turkey or a ham, bags of potatoes, carrots and onions, along with stuffing, fixings, juice and a freshly baked, made-from-scratch pumpkin pie from Walker's.

Grant said Jim Walker, the owner of Walker's Country Market, is always a big help during the holidays. "We do this at Easter,

Thanksgiving and Christmas and he donates pies every time," she told The Lake Report.

Grant added that only three years ago, Newark Neighbours was servicing 30 families and the need has grown exponentially. Walker is still happy to help.

"I had to call him and almost cringe when I said, 'Jim I'm so sorry I ended up needing 85 pies.'" (She asked for a few extras, just in case.)

He said, "Not a problem Cindy. Don't worry about it," Grant recalled.

For Walker, being able to help out a Niagara-on-the-Lake cause is something close to the heart and one that he and his family are dedicated to continuing.

"I grew up in Niagara-on-the-Lake, our family has been here since the 1920s," he said.

"What we do is right here on-site and they're a



Jim Walker and daughter Bethany Picek gave the gift of fresh, handmade pies to Newark Neighbours this Thanksgiving. They made pies to go with the 82 baskets of food that were delivered to families in need. RYAN BOISVERT

(NOTL) agency that helps out the less fortunate. It's just a perfect match," he said.

Even with this year's whopping need for more than 80 pies, Walker said all the baking is done the day the pies are delivered to Newark Neighbours, ensuring that clients get the freshest dessert possible for their Thanksgiving celebration.

"I thought it'd be nice to get a homemade pie from scratch, rather than a grocery store pie from the factory," Walker said.

He added that his daughter Bethany Picek is a huge helping hand when baking 85 pies in one morning and that along with three to four other helpers, it wouldn't be possible.

Grant and the Newark

Neighbours volunteers distributed Thanksgiving meal baskets from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Thursday.

"We ask our clients to come and pick up, and the vast majority did. There's a few that don't have access to transportation so we delivered to around six families," Grant said.

Grant also thanked the community and all New-

ark's volunteers, whom she said all have their hearts in the cause.

"I am grateful once again to this community for providing all of that food so that we could make those 82 families' Thanksgiving a good holiday," she said.

"I'm grateful and blessed to have a wonderful team of volunteers who make it fun and make it enjoyable."



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