



A model citizen | Page 6

Owners worry roundabout will **kill** St. Davids businesses

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

St. Davids residents are collecting signatures to combat the region's roundabout, the latest in

an ongoing battle between region and residents.

The Change.org petition has been put together by the St. Davids Ratepayers Association and can be signed at <https://tinyurl.com/yhfhuyu>.

The petition marks the latest development in an ongoing dispute over what to do with the four way stop at the intersection of Four Mile Creek and York Roads.

The region proposes a

roundabout is the safest solution, but many residents are not convinced.

"We need traffic to slow down and to stop," The Change.org petition said.

"The purpose roundabouts provide is the

opposite of what's needed," it added.

The petition said there are multiple opportunities to build a bypass instead.

Frank Tassone, the region's associate director of transportation

engineering, told The Lake Report a bypass is not a viable solution at this point in time.

Business owners in the heart of St. Davids are not

Continued on Page 2

Shared services debate prompts roundabout **spat** at council

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A council debate about sharing municipal services with other communities in the region grew sour last week when councillors brought up the thorny issue of a planned roundabout in St. Davids.

Coun. Sandra O'Connor, who chaired the Tuesday morning meeting, cautioned that the town needs to be considerate of its residents when cutting deals for community services – especially when working with the region.

She cited a "power imbalance" between the two levels of government and said she felt the region had not been considerate of the town's needs on issues such as the new St. Davids roundabout.

The decision made this year to move forward with the roundabout at the corner of York and Four Mile Creek roads, replacing the current four-way traffic stop,

Continued on Page 2

Punching her way to the top

St. Davids boxer is one win away from a trip to Paris Olympics



Mckenzie Wright, in blue, won a unanimous 5-0 decision on Tuesday in the quarterfinals of the Pan Am Games. CHRISTIAN ZAPATA/SANTIAGO 2023

Kevin MacLean | The Lake Report

Nine more minutes, three more rounds of boxing and Mckenzie Wright could be on her way to fight for Canada at the Paris 2024 Summer Olympic Games.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake boxer

won a unanimous 5-0 decision on Tuesday afternoon in the quarterfinals of the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile.

It was her second straight win and sets up a semifinal bout on Thursday afternoon against

American fighter Jennifer Lozano of Laredo, Texas.

The Santiago Games are a direct qualifier for the Summer Olympics and in boxing the two finalists automatically punch their ticket to compete in Paris.

On Tuesday, Wright moved a giant step closer to achieving that dream when she defeated Valeria Cardenas Abarca of Costa Rica in her second fight in the 50-ki-

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Tribunal ruling helps but **more support urged** for migrant workers

Richard Hutton
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Kit Andres is relieved that a small group of migrant workers who were hurt while working in Canada

will now receive compensation for their injuries.

"It's great to see that their voices are finally being listened to. We've been talking about it for many, many years," said Andres, the Migrant Workers Alliance

for Change's representative in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Four workers who suffered injuries – including one who was working in NOTL – were awarded compensation by the Workplace Safety and Insurance

Appeals Tribunal this fall.

The Lake Report published a detailed account of the ruling earlier this month.

The tribunal ruled that Workplace Safety and Insurance Board was wrong to

deny claims of the workers, who were hired under the federal Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program.

In its Sept. 15 decision, the tribunal said the four



Continued on Page 3 Kit Andres.



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Residents launch petition against roundabout

Continued from Front Page

so keen to see the four corners of Four Mile Creek and York Roads turned into a roundabout.

One reason is that the region will likely need to expropriate land from the property owners which surround the intersection.

This means the region will compel land owners in the area to sell their land to the region to facilitate construction of the roundabout.

The Ontario Expropriations Act says people who have their land expropriated for public use are entitled to compensation.

How much the region is planning to foot when the cheque hits the table is up in the air though.

One estimate from the region, which does not include the cost of expropriation, evaluates the cost of building the roundabout at over \$3.8 million.

"Many of the specifics regarding the amount of property required to be expropriated are uncertain at this time," said the environmental study prepared by the region June 2022.

Paul Harber, proprietor of Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery in St. Davids, remembers eight years ago, when the project



Paul Harber, proprietor of Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery, is one of the many St. Davids business owners who thinks a roundabout at the historic four corners is a bad idea that will hurt nearby businesses. SUPPLIED

was still young, it was already a "sure thing."

And according to Harber, when he met with the region's consultants in August 2021 to discuss the project, they thought the lands around the intersection were owned by either the region or the town when they started planning it.

The intersection of Four Mile Creek and York Roads is home to several businesses, some of which will be losing land to the roundabout.

The Old Firehall, for example, could be losing

up to 20 per cent of its parking, said Harber.

Harber, who's family also owns the lands adjacent to the Old Fire Hall, said he would also lose much of the frontage on the property, making it more difficult to develop in the future.

The lands next to the Old Fire Hall restaurant are "a very significant piece of village commercially zoned land," he said.

And there could have been opportunities to build and grow new businesses and long term housing there, he added.

"This roundabout will

kill all of that," he said.

Tassone said a roundabout would need nine per cent less land than a signalized intersection.

Other businesses that could be impacted include flower shop Bloom and Co., Junction Coffee Bar, St. Davids Dental and York Barber's Lounge.

"I really feel bad for the existing businesses," Harber said.

Thomas Eltoft owns Niagara-on-the-Lake Realty on Four Mile Creek Road just past the intersection.

He was less worried about the impact to his real estate business, but has lingering concerns for those of his neighbours.

He said the roundabout could take business away from the shops surrounding the four way stop.

Eltoft said the point of a roundabout is to move traffic more quickly through an area.

This could result in less people stopping to patron the shops at the four corners.

Construction alone would have an immediate and negative impact on the area, he said.

Dan Segal, president of the St. Davids Ratepayers Association, said none of the businesses who could be affected by the construction had been in

talks with the region on expropriation.

Segal said it "certainly seems a little backwards" that the region hasn't figured out the total cost of the project "before committing significant dollars to it."

"I don't know one neighbor in favor. The only person I knew who was actually in favor of it was Gary Zalepa," Eltoft said.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa told The Lake Report he supports the project because there is an urgent need to upgrade the infrastructure and protect the safety of people using the intersection.

He said all the information he had seen shows that a roundabout is the safest option on the table.

"Gary keeps on saying I trust the process. I trust the process. I think the process was flawed," Harber said.

"There's been no major accident at that four way intersection," Harber said.

"So other than just traffic, why are we doing this?" Harber asked. He said that question remains unanswered.

Eltoft said Zalepa was in favour of the project when he was regional councillor, but "flip flopped" during his mayoral campaign in 2022.

"I trust that the region

did the job that they were supposed to do," Regional Coun. Andrea Kaiser said in an interview.

"Whether I personally like it or don't is kind of a moot point," Kaiser added.

Like Zalepa, Kaiser said the region's environmental assessment shows a roundabout is the best solution to the congestion in St. Davids.

She said residents have been part of the consultation process leading up to the region's recommendation for a roundabout.

"I am not opposed to the roundabout," she said, but she added she was open to listening to feedback.

Kaiser said in her 2022 run for council she found there was no consensus on the roundabout.

"There was a lot of people who thought it was an awesome idea," she added.

Harber said public consultation was done mostly through virtual meetings throughout the pandemic.

This is a problem, he said, for an older community, where many residents may not even have an email account.

"I don't think half or more than half of the affected community even knew that this was going on," he said.

Zalepa says St. Davids residents aren't opposed to roundabout

Continued from Front Page

was made by the region, not the town.

In response, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa said that decision is different from how shared services work.

"The shared-service model will be locally elected people making local decisions using resources that are, perhaps, shared," he said.

While Coun. Gary Burroughs agreed with Zalepa's account of shared services, he said "we get into trouble" over regional properties, such as the intersection in St. Davids.

"The residents don't want it," Burroughs said.

Zalepa interjected, saying Burroughs was wrong.

O'Connor allowed Burroughs to finish his point, however, because council has sent two letters to the region in opposition to the roundabout after hearing concerns from residents about the project.

This appeared to agitate the lord mayor, who, at that point, briefly stepped out of council chambers.

In an interview after the meeting, Zalepa said Burroughs was wrong.

The lord mayor explained that he talked to hundreds of people about the project on the campaign trail last fall - knocking on "almost every door in St. Davids."

"I do not feel that that there is massive opposition to an improvement in infrastructure in the intersection," he said.

"I go through there almost every day. My parents live in St. Davids," he added.

Repairs and upgrades are "drastically needed," he said.

Zalepa said he went through every environmental assessment and attended every meeting on the issue in his time as a regional councillor - representing Niagara-on-the-Lake - in the prior term.

From that process, the best option on the table, for all parties, was a roundabout, he said.

"I will stand behind that. I've stood firmly behind it each time," he said.

The Lake Report has reported on resident backlash to the project at each successive development in the roundabout project.

Frank Tassone, the region's director of transportation services, offered several reasons for why a roundabout is the best option.

"Roundabouts slow down the speed of traffic and provide safer experiences for all modes of travel," he said in an email.

He also said it's the safest option for both road users and pedestrians.

One reason he gave is that pedestrians have shorter

distances to cross in a roundabout than at traffic lights - they only have to watch for cars coming from one direction.

"Drivers are more likely to be looking in the direction of pedestrians, instead of up at signals or left while turning right," he added.

And Zalepa said when accidents do happen in roundabouts, they are, statistically, less severe because people are driving more slowly.

When drivers collide at 60 kilometres an hour, the speed limit on York Road, "people get hurt," Zalepa said.

Zalepa said he could have been "less dramatic," but he

gets "a little annoyed" when he hears comments like those Burroughs made.

"If you're going to say something like that, what's the fact that you have to back it up?" the mayor asked.

One alternative to a roundabout posed by St. Davids residents is a bypass.

Zalepa said a bypass doesn't solve the safety concerns that exist right now and that even if a bypass was built, the region could not leave the St. Davids intersection as a four-way stop.

He said he had nothing against Burroughs "per se," just that he was a "irked" by his comment.



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Migrant workers need to be extended permanent residency so they can benefit from the same rights to health and safety as Canadian workers, says Kit Andres of the Migrant Workers Alliance for Change. FILE/RICHARD HARLEY

Tribunal ruling is helpful but alliance urges **more support** for migrant workers

Continued from Front Page

workers were entitled to proper loss-of-earnings benefits and retraining support.

But while it represents a small win for the workers involved, the fight will continue to allow migrant workers to benefit from the same rights workers have in Canada, Andres said.

“As long as there are migrant workers, (denial of worker benefits) will continue to happen,” Andres said.

Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates, meanwhile, has renewed a call for Premier Doug Ford government’s to pass legislation he brought forward last December that would prevent workers from having to jump through hoops to receive proper compensation.

It was the second time Gates had brought the bill before the legislature. The first time was in 2019, when it passed first reading but was not passed before MPPs broke for the 2022 provincial election.

The workers, he said, were victims of “deeming,” an issue he has brought up on several occasions at Queen’s Park.

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

do not actually have.

Often the injured workers are no longer in the country.

For example, Gates said a worker earning \$22 per hour may be deemed unfit to return to their old job but fit to do another, lesser-paying job at \$16 per hour.

His bill would eliminate the practice, he said.

“It seems the (workplace board) is more interested in cutting off workers than helping them,” he said.

In its decision, the tribunal concluded the board had wrongly limited the injured seasonal migrant workers to only 12 weeks of long-term loss-of-earnings benefits.

Gates applauded that decision, saying that when workers are cut off, they often are left with no alternative but to apply for social assistance such as Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program.

“It comes out of taxpayers’ money,” Gates said.

He called seasonal workers “the driving force” in Niagara-on-the-Lake’s agricultural sector.

“Without them we wouldn’t have a wine industry. We wouldn’t have fruit and produce,” Gates said.

Gates’ bill would amend the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act so the board would not determine earnings based on employment a worker doesn’t have, unless the worker were to refuse a job in bad faith.

“Injured workers deserve better. We should be providing the support they need, not punishing them when they are acting in good faith,” he said.

Andres agreed workers deserve better, but said change will only really come when workers are granted permanent resident status, which would entitle them to “each and every one of the rights” other Canadians have.

“It’s the number one mechanism where all other rights are accessed,” Andres said.

But, Andres added, without permanent residency, workers have little recourse.

“It’s an issue of power. When they are injured, (workers) don’t have the power to receive care.”

Instead, workers are often pressured to return to their home country when they are hurt – not just by Canada, but also by the country of origin’s officials.

“They’re interested in protecting the program. It is making money for the country,” Andres said.

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board said after the decision that it would review its process for deciding on claims for seasonal workers. Spokesperson Christine Arnott said the review will take about six months.

“The review will help

ensure the (board) is taking a consistent and fair approach that recognizes the realities of people’s local labour markets after they return home,” Arnott said in an email to The Lake Report.

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

Andres, meanwhile, said to draw attention to the issue, the Migrants Rights Network has announced it is organizing two campaigns for Halloween: the Pumpkin Challenge and the Fighter Fear Challenge.

For the pumpkin event, workers and their supporters are encouraged to decorate a pumpkin utilizing the words “Status for All” and post photos on social media or deliver it to the office of their local member of Parliament.

In NOTL, that would be Conservative MP Tony Baldinelli, whose main office is at 107-4056 Dorchester Rd. in Niagara Falls.

For the second challenge, migrant workers are encouraged to share their stories about the fear they feel living in Canada as a migrant worker without permanent residency status.

More information on the challenges is available at migrantrights.ca.

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Valour & Victory ceremony to honour Indigenous veterans



Niagara Parks will host Valour & Victory, a ceremony to honour Indigenous veterans, on Nov. 4 at the Landscape of Nations memorial at Queenston Heights. SUPPLIED

Staff
The Lake Report

Members of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities will mark a milestone this November when they gather in Queenston for National Indigenous Veterans Day.

It will be the fifth year that Niagara Parks hosts the Valour & Victory gathering, a public ceremony held at the Landscape of Nations Memorial in Queenston Heights Park.

This year's ceremony takes place on Saturday, Nov. 4, at 1 p.m. in advance of Indigenous

Veterans Day, which is on Nov. 8.

The event will also mark the seventh anniversary of the unveiling of the memorial in 2016.

The number seven is symbolic in Haudenosaunee culture: it's reflected in the Landscape of Nations memorial, with seven steel arches symbolizing a longhouse, and seven earthen mounds representing nature and signifying the number of Indigenous nations involved in the Battle of Queenston Heights and the War of 1812.

Speakers at the ceremony will include Niagara Parks chair April Jeffs, as well

as Tim Johnson, senior adviser for heritage and legacy at Niagara Parks.

Johnson co-chaired a working group responsible for the memorial's creation, alongside Dr. Richard Merritt.

Paul Williams, a historian and lawyer from Six Nations, will deliver a historical address at the gathering. He spoke at the original ground-breaking ceremony for the memorial in 2015.

The ceremony will also include an honour song by Phil Davis from the Niagara Regional Native Centre, a wreath laying and a ceremonial fire.

Legion to host Remembrance Day Nov. 11

Staff
The Lake Report

The Royal Canadian Legion branch 124 will once again host a ceremony on Nov. 11 in honour of Remembrance Day, on behalf of veteran soldiers and the families of those whose lives were taken in war.

Services will be held in both Old Town and Queenston, with the annual marching procession heading to the clock tower cenotaph on Queen Street for 10:45 a.m., then a ceremony at the Queenston memorial cenotaph at 1 p.m.

Alongside services happening on Nov. 11, the legion will host a flag-raising outside the town's municipal offices at 1593 Four Mile Creek Rd. this Friday at 9:30 a.m.

"It is the mission of the Royal Canadian Legion, and the duty of this branch to continue to recognize the fallen from this community

and support those families, and the continuing support for all veterans," read a statement from the branch 124 legion's president, Al Howse.

These services first started in Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1923, led by the Independent Order of Daughters of the Empire. They were held on the Thanksgiving weekend.

In 1928, branch 124 – then called General Nelles Branch – became a charter

member of the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League.

The returning veterans of the First World War assisted, then assumed responsibility for these services.

Two years later, in 1930, Nov. 11 was adopted as a Day of Remembrance, holding services at the clock tower cenotaph and the then-township cenotaph, a year before it was officially named Armistice Day.



Remembrance ceremonies will take place at the Old Town and Queenston cenotaphs on Nov. 11. FILE

Lessons learned from polio epidemic may help with COVID, says Hirji

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

On World Polio Day, Dr. Mustafa Hirji drew parallels between the infectious disease and COVID-19 that may help deal with this fall's uptick in cases.

During Tuesday's Rotary Club meeting at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre, Hirji, the region's associate medical officer of health, looked back on how polio has been dealt with and said there were lessons that could be applied to help control the spread of COVID.

Hirji, who helped lead Niagara's emergency response throughout the pandemic, wore a mask throughout his presentation and suggested



Dr. Mustafa Hirji.

others should wear one when infection rates spike in the winter months.

While COVID-19 has not affected us as badly as it once did, it remains one of the top 10 killers across Canada.

Besides things like improved sanitation, improved CO2 ventilation and choosing outdoor over indoor activity, Hirji insisted the

most effective first step in eradicating COVID-19 is making sure your vaccinations are fully up to date.

"It's free, it's easy, you can walk right into your pharmacy and get it. I think that's the easiest step we can all take," Hirji told The Lake Report.

Lori Beak, a Legion member who was a guest at the luncheon, asked what exactly counts as "fully vaccinated" in 2023.

"I've had people who had three shots a year and a half ago and consider themselves fully vaxxed," she said.

Hirji said about 26 per cent of Canadians who have received all booster doses.

And while three doses would be considered fully vaccinated, the COVID shot

is looking to be something like the flu vaccine where residents should aim for an updated booster each year, he said.

"Polio eradication has been successful so far because we've got really high vaccine coverage and we need to do that with COVID-19 as well," he said.

With cases on the rise this fall and cold and flu season coming over the holidays, now may be time for a booster.

"The uptick started in August, through September and into this month. We now seem to be on a downward spiral, which is good news," he said.

"But we're dealing with outbreaks. We didn't have outbreaks in the summer so

definitely it's a real problem right now. I want to make sure we're protecting the people who are most vulnerable."

Along with diligent vaccination, Hirji said extra steps can be taken – especially during flu season – to decrease the spread.

When the weather is warmest, he suggested socializing outdoors when possible.

"But we're in Canada and we have winter, so we can't be outside all the time," he said.

"What we need to do is improve our HVAC systems."

He cited Japan as an example, where improved ventilation systems in indoor spaces and getting

CO2 numbers closer to that of outdoor air have been shown to help curb the spread of airborne viruses.

Hirji also noted there's an annual rise in illness each January.

"I think this has to do with our holiday calendar," he said.

Considering parties and gatherings in December are followed by a quick return to work and school in the new year, Hirji recommends a shift in our approach to the season.

"Can we have extended holidays? So, if we get sick, when we get better we can go back to work and school. Or maybe we can have a mandatory two weeks where everybody works and studies from home," he said.



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New bench honours memory of longtime member of Friends of Fort George

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

A memorial bench honouring the memory of Louise Leyland – a Niagara-on-the-Lake woman who touched many lives with her love, friendship and passion for history – has found a rather fitting place to call home.

“I proposed to her right at this spot, 56 years ago,” said her husband, Don Leyland, outside of Brock’s Monument in Queenston Heights.

In April, 81-year-old Leyland was struck and killed by a cyclist near Willowbank School.

An active member of the Friends of Fort George, she formed many bonds during her 25 years with the organization.

On Saturday, the organization unveiled a bench in remembrance of Leyland outside of the historic monument in Queenston.

Before cutting the ribbon to officially “open” the



Louise Leyland’s son Tyler and husband Don are pleased the bench is at Queenston Heights near Brock’s Monument, a place that was special to Louise. JULIA SACCO

bench, Don Leyland shared stories about his wife’s life, including her love of Queenston Heights and all things history.

He shared the story of their first date together many years ago: from the start, she made her love of the historic site apparent to him.

“When I asked where she wanted to go, she said, ‘We’ll go up to the Heights, Queenston Heights Park. I like to walk there,’” he said.

During the unveiling, friends and loved ones

shared happy memories of and mingled over warm apple cider and snacks.

The bench itself was scribed by woodworker and longtime volunteer and founding member of the Friends of Fort George, Jim Alexander.

Alexander and his wife Erika shared a friendship with Leyland for 30 years while working together with the organization.

Alexander also worked on the bench opposite Leyland’s, dedicated to Bob Malcomson.

“When Louise passed, I said to (Jim), ‘It would be fitting to have a memory of Louise like that opposite,’” Erika told The Lake Report.

“It was just such a wonderful way to have that constant memory of somebody who did something very important in keeping history alive,” she said.

Now, Leyland’s memorial bench sits outside of Brock’s Monument at Queenston Heights.

“We look forward to spending some time on the bench with her,” Erika said.

Museum volunteers rewarded for their service

Staff
The Lake Report

A group of people who help out at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum are in it for the long haul – and they have the proof to back that up.

Six museum volunteers were among 3,400 across the province recognized for their service with an Ontario Volunteer Service Award for contributions to their respective organizations.

The awards are handed out annually to individuals who have dedicated continuous years of service to non-profits, schools, community centres, hospitals, libraries, and other community groups and agencies.

Sarah Kaufman, the museum’s managing director, said the volunteers are “the very heart” of the museum.

“They are skilled, committed, and extremely dedicated, and clock up numerous hours doing a variety of work from data entry and



Sarah Kaufman, managing director of the NOTL Museum (third from left) was joined by volunteers, from left Ken Schander, Dick Coyne, Mona Babin, David Hemmings and Richard Merritt. The volunteers were honoured with Ontario Volunteer Service Awards. SUPPLIED

collections management, to poppy making and gardening – they are absolutely invaluable to us,” she said.

Volunteers who received the award included Richard Merritt (35 years), David Hemmings (15 years), Ken Schander, Mona Babin, Dick Coyne and Ted

Rumble, all with five years of service.

Award winners were all nominated by their respective organization and receive a certificate and lapel pin celebrating their years of service.

The awards recognize adult volunteers for five

to 65 years or more of continuous service in five-year increments and youth volunteers for two or more years of continuous service.

For more information, visit www.ontario.ca/page/honours-and-awards-volunteering.

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Richard Hutton
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

There's a multi-tower, 30-storey development going up right now in St. Davids, but in order to get a glimpse of it, you'd need to head down to Leslie Mann's basement.

Mann, you might say, is a "model" citizen. Through his business, Models by Mann, he has been creating scaled-down representations of buildings for developers for 40 years.

It's something he began to do shortly after graduating from art school at Sheridan College in Oakville back in 1977.

"While I was in art school, I took an elective which was actually sort of a basic model making course one semester," he said.

"That's where it all started."

Now 66 years old, Mann is slowing his pace, but keeping his hand in the model-building profession.

He is now working on a project for a developer in Barrie – the aforementioned tower project.

"I liked to build three-dimensional (things). When I was a kid, I used Lego and Mechano and all that kind of stuff. I never realized there was a career in building models," Mann said.

But what a career it has been. He created five scale



Left: Leslie Mann, with his latest project, for a Barrie developer. Above: Mann with a photo of the model that started his career — the CN Tower. RICHARD HUTTON

models of the CN Tower that were used for promotion of what was once the world's tallest freestanding structure.

It has fallen to 10th with the Burj Khalifa skyscraper in the United Arab Emirates now holding down top spot.

"They would break into pieces, and they were

mounted in suitcases. And they would take them to hotels across Canada and set them up and have somebody there handing out leaflets," Mann said.

He plies his trade in the old-school way but also uses lasers and 3-D printers.

Lasers make the work quicker and easier, but he still uses a cutting blade

for some things.

"I'm looking at it when I finish it, like a piece of art in a way. I'm critical of my workmanship and that sort of thing, whereas they're more building a car to ship it out," he said.

Probably one of the more famous buildings that Mann was tasked with creating was a model of phase one of

the Trump Plaza in Hoboken, N.J.

The facility wound up closing its doors in 2014 after losing money for years.

Since moving to St. Davids, Mann has established a working relationship with west Niagara builder DeSantis Homes and created the models for the company's Century Condos in

downtown Grimsby.

DeSantis turned to Mann after previously outsourcing its model work to China, something Mann said was a trend in the business.

That sometimes meant phone calls in the middle of the night to communicate with the model makers.

Needless to say, DeSantis was happy to be working with someone who was local, Mann said.

"Working with me, they can come here and see it, which is great for me and great for them. So it's worked out."

Creating models takes time, Mann said, with the average building taking anywhere from six to 12 weeks.

Inevitably, clients "always want it yesterday and ... don't appreciate how long it really takes to get it done," he said.

While he has made a career in building models, he is now finding time to return to creating his own art.

"Once I got busy with this, there was no turning back. It was sort of regrettable because I never hardly did any artwork, because I used to do drawing," Mann said.

Now, the model maker is slowly returning to his roots, and in the last couple of years, has been exploring the world of watercolour painting – a chance to try something different.

Niagara College gets \$50K injection to help with food innovation



The funding will support work on wet chemistry and spectroscopy to ensure the quality of various food and beverage products in the food chemistry lab. SUPPLIED

Staff
The Lake Report

If you've ever dreamed of seeing one of your home recipes hit the shelves of your local supermarket, an opportunity to hit the ground running and take your work to market is opening up at Niagara College.

The college is receiving \$50,000 from the Canadian government to fund services at its innovation centre where new food and beverages are tested before they become products available for sale.

Its Food & Beverage Innovation Centre is receiving the funding from the National Research Council of Canada's Industrial Research Assistance Program.

From there, small and medium-sized enterprises doing work in beverage production can qualify to work with the innovation centre, where they'll have the help of staff, faculty, recent graduates and students in making their products market-ready.

Some of the steps involved in making a product market-ready at the innova-

tion centre include prototyping, food safety guidance, testing and producing marketable products.

The target clients for this pilot include not just enterprises working with beverages, but also spoonable and pourable foods, including non-alcoholic, low alcohol, or alternative products (like plant-based and functional beverages like sports drinks).

Project intake is open until March 31 next year. The average project value will be between \$12,500 to \$15,000, comprised of

\$10,000 funding and industry cash.

To be eligible, enterprises must be clients of the National Research Council of Canada's Industrial Research Assistance Program, referred to by an Industrial Technology Advisor or Client Engagement Advisor.

Participants must pay an up-front service fee on average of \$2,500 before work starts.

For more information or to connect with Niagara College's Research & Innovation centre, visit ncinnovation.ca.



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Mobile clinic brings health care to farm workers

Richard Hutton
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A new mobile clinic will help provide seasonal agricultural workers in Niagara-on-the-Lake with better access to health care, says the leader of the organization that will operate the service.

Nancy Garner is the executive director of Quest Community Health Centre in St. Catharines, which has taken possession of a custom van outfitted with all of the furnishings of a medical exam room.

The \$200,000 van, outfitted by MoveMobility of Mississauga, contains items such as an exam table, a vaccine refrigerator, storage for supplies and more.

"It's all ready to go. We are just in the process of gathering supplies to stock the shelves," Garner said.

Quest worked with other community health centres in southwest Ontario, looking for ways it could improve access to health-care services for seasonal workers.

"I think COVID really shone a light on the need of workers and as a result, we worked really closely together to put proposals together to the minister of health to fund increased services," Garner said.

Quest researched what barriers farm workers faced

in accessing health care, charting the location of bunkhouses for seasonal workers in the agency's catchment area of north Niagara and then looked at what services were within at 10- to 15-minute bike ride.

Gaps were discovered, Garner said.

"We saw a huge area of the region where workers had a barrier to access our health-care services, so that's when we put in this proposal for a mobile health clinic," she said.

The new clinic on wheels will allow Quest to go to workers rather than forcing them to make their way to a doctor's office or walk-in clinic.

Site visits were already happening but with the new van, that service can be improved, allowing workers privacy, said Jesslyn Froese, a registered nurse with Quest.

"We're able to have a quiet space for (measuring) blood pressure, a confidential space for something like a pap (test). It helps in many ways so that it helps create more accessible and efficient health care for us to provide," Froese said.

While the mobile clinic will play a big role in providing health care to seasonal workers, it will also be used to deliver services to other vulnerable populations such as people who are



Quest Community Health Centre executive director Nancy Garner, in back, with outreach registered nurse Jesslyn Froese and community health worker Moises Vasquez, inside a new mobile health clinic. Garner says it will help the organization tend to the health needs of seasonal farm workers in NOTL and other municipalities. RICHARD HUTTON

experiencing homelessness.

"Wherever people congregate (who) are experiencing barriers to care, we will be able to bring their health care to them," Garner said.

Most of the service to farm workers is provided

after hours, in the evenings and on weekends, Garner said, so it makes sense to use the van for other needs during the day rather than have it sit.

"We don't want the clinic sitting in the parking lot all

day during the week," she said.

Moises Vasquez, a community health worker with Quest, said farms are already inquiring about scheduling a clinic visit. "They have been reaching

out to us and they are interested in working with us by having the mobile clinic on site. St. David's (Hydroponics), for example. They keep workers all year-round and they are really looking into that."

New exhibition spotlights Willowmere Haven's farm animals

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

For Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Bre Miller, her latest artistic endeavour all started with a love for animals.

Miller and her husband, Spencer, have managed care of animals at Lauren and Vaughn Goettler farm Willowmere Haven for the last three years.

She "absolutely" loves animals, Miller told The Lake Report.

"It's nice to be in the company of something that desperately wants and needs you and just loves you no matter what," she said.

Miller has been able to beautifully capture these quiet moments with the animals on an Instagram page, @willowmerehaven, for the farm that she started to share images with fellow NOTLers.

The account's feed is filled with idyllic photographs and action shots of sheep, pigs, cows, goats, horses and other animals that call this farm home or may pay a visit.

"I guess I just kind of have a thing for capturing moments and wanting moments to be remembered," Miller said.

The Instagram page gained popularity with

residents and visitors – currently, it has more than 750 followers.

Miller decided to show some of the best shots in an exhibition at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre.

Miller said that each image, shot on her iPhone 12, tells a specific story.

"Yesterday I was doing the installation at the gallery and was walking around looking at the photos and thought, 'Oh, there's a story with that one,' and I was telling all the staff at the museum," she said.

Miller's exhibition will run from Oct. 28 to Nov. 11 at the Pumphouse, at 247 Ricardo St.



Bre Miller and her husband Spencer have been helping out at Willowmere Haven for three years now. Bre's photography will be on display at the Pumphouse on Oct. 28. SUPPLIED



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THE NOTL POPPY PROJECT

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





TLR

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Advertising: Megan Vanderlee, Lindsay Le Blanc
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Canada The Local Journalism Initiative is funded by the Government of Canada.

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Contributed by Patty Garriock

“Follow what you are genuinely passionate about and let that guide you to your destination.”
 - Diane Sawyer

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Mrs. Ropers romp around



Twenty-seven participants in the Roper Romp took over Old Town on Sunday. In all, 25 Mrs. Ropers, a Stanley and a Chrissy could be seen cruising among bars and restaurants all afternoon. JULIA SACCO

Editorial

Better health care for NOTL. Now

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

An estimated 5 million Canadians do not have a family doctor.

In Ontario, that total is about 2.2 million people.

Across Niagara and in Niagara-on-the-Lake, several thousand people have no family physician.

We're used to being treated like an inconsequential backwater here in Niagara. Witness how long it took to get the St. Catharines hospital built and the long wait for approvals for the south Niagara hospital – which finally is moving ahead.

Here in NOTL, we are fortunate that two new family doctors are joining the Niagara North Family Health Team this fall. Their services are badly needed.

But it is only a start. Having those two family physicians practising will help those who have gone without but it will only make a dent in the problem.

As The Lake Report's ongoing in-depth health care series, Code Grey, has documented, NOTL still needs at least one more family doctor, there remains a

shortage of nurses and, with our area's aging population, more seniors specialty care is required.

On top of this, Niagara-on-the-Lake has been waiting for more than two years for the addition of a new nurse practitioner to the town's medical cohort. Coun. Sandra O'Connor has been patiently pushing really hard to make it happen. And she, and others, keep being told, "It's coming."

But patients have been patient long enough.

Everyone – town leaders, medical personnel, Niagara Health, our MPP, the provincial government and layers of health bureaucracy in between all those – agrees that another nurse practitioner would be a big help.

But, it seems, Niagara is not important enough in the grand scheme of things to get this done in anywhere close to a timely fashion.

The wheels of bureaucracy grind slowly.

An official with the family health team says "there are processes that need to happen" to bring the nurse practitioner into the health team's budget, plus there

have been organizational changes at the provincial level that have interrupted those processes.

These things take time and now it seems, "it will happen likely early in the new year" and we are told there likely is nothing anyone can do that has not already been done to speed up the process.

That's a mixture of good news and sad news – because a year ago around this time we were hearing that a nurse practitioner might be approved and on board by the last new year.

Kudos to Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and New Democrat MPP Wayne Gates for last week firing off a joint letter demanding action from the provincial government. No word yet on how successful that overture may have been.

One of the key benefits of having another nurse practitioner is that he or she would be available at walk-in clinics – for people without a family doctor, for visitors and tourists who fall ill, and others who might need immediate care.

Because as it stands now, the unfortunate reality is

the health team's clinics are only for patients rostered with the health team.

The health team format gives doctors a bit of a monopoly over the area they serve. If you aren't covered by the health team, you have to go elsewhere for care – typically Niagara Falls or St. Catharines.

That aside, some patients of the health team in NOTL have expressed frustration to us over an ongoing practice by the physicians' offices. It is a busy place and getting hold of your doctor or their assistant can sometimes require multiple attempts.

And as the two-minute recording on the health team's main line tells you, the office's phones are not answered from noon to 2 p.m. daily.

We're not sure why that is: Lunch break? Catching up on paperwork? Staff shortage? Whatever the reason is, it strikes us as a rather unfriendly approach to customer service.

But that's the least of our concerns because NOTL needs another nurse practitioner. Now.

editor@niagaranow.com

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LETTER OF THE WEEK

Tim's customers, please dispose of litter properly

Dear editor:

During a litter cleanup on Sunday, Oct. 22, along about a two-kilometre short stretch of Lakeshore Road leading into Old Town, more than 60 Tim Hortons cups (and lids) were picked up.

Several bags of litter were collected, including two bags filled with Tim Hortons garbage. Among the items were several lids with customers' names written on them (such as Dom, Don and Dan).

This is disappointing and concerning behaviour. It is also disrespectful to the earth and the community, and contravenes the town's littering bylaw.

So, to Tim Hortons customers (like Dom, Don and Dan), I say, please do not litter. Respect the earth, community and yourself. Properly dispose of your waste and recycling in designated containers.

To the management and staff of Tim Hortons at

Mary and Mississagua streets, I say please raise customer awareness and remind them to dispose of cups and lids properly.

They should never toss them out of their car or truck window into our beautiful natural green spaces and watersheds.

This is unsightly and a significant environmental concern, especially with the ecological degradation impacts of unsustainable single-use plastics and other

materials.

Please be a responsible corporate citizen and try to ensure your product, which includes single-use containers and lids, does not litter the landscape.

It is sad and disappointing to see this level of uncaring, irresponsible behaviour.

I hope Tim Hortons customers and others will take more care and try to do better.

**Irena Bliss
NOTL**



Tim Hortons cups collected on Lakeshore Road. SUPPLIED

Who's ready for the City of NOTL? I'm not

Dear editor:

Change is constant. Sometimes there's no getting around it.

Supply, demand, development. To some these almost can be fighting words. They don't have to be, if done with sensitivity, care and respect to the "vibe."

In our little peninsula of the world that vibe has a lot of history and history-in-the-making.

Twenty-five years ago the first residents of the Village moved in. The Old Town boundary stopped there or was it enveloped reluctantly? Three-storey apartment buildings were added in the past few years.

There didn't seem to be much hoopla or push back at the time. When the two-storey Simcoe apartments were constructed on Davy Street in Old Town, was there reluctance?

Now there's a proposed development on King Street, straddling the urban and rural demarcation line, albeit, on a very small parcel of land.

Sky-high towers are proposed on the White Oaks property in Glendale, plus the planned development beside the outlet mall.

Housing crisis, affordabil-

ity, walking scores, aging population. It can be challenging to wrap our minds around current social issues.

Ours is a small town of under 20,000 people, but maybe not for much longer.

Niagara-on-the-Lake has immense historical significance in Canada. As residents, we are the caretakers of this town and we must think of how we want it to look 200 years from now. How is that picture currently taking shape?

When the Pillar and Post was first constructed, I'm sure it raised eyebrows. A high-end hotel and spa built where a canning factory once stood?

Now a developer wants to build a large hotel on a former elementary school property. Is it the right look and feel for that lot?

I can appreciate the style of the 1800s Baroque influence that might fit in neatly into Old Town. But could we not have a hotel with a lower roofline, with a look that doesn't feel jarring and forced?

When the Oban Inn was destroyed in a fire, was it rebuilt supersized? No, a replica was built in its place.

Glendale is poised to eventually add about 15,000

people to the town's population. And now four towers are proposed for the White Oaks property. Are we ready for that?

If Virgil continues to grow, is the City of Niagara-on-the-Lake far behind? Do we want that?

I'm not certain apartment buildings on the King Street and Mary Street lots are the answer. At the same time, we do need to consider smaller residential options for those entering the workforce or those ready to downsize.

But it has to be on the right property and in the right scale.

Whatever happened to the property across from Crossroads Public School on Niagara Stone Road? I thought a lowrise development was proposed and shot down.

Maybe that doesn't look as sinister now, as it did back then. I don't recall the specifics, but I remember it wasn't received kindly.

According to Statistics Canada, among NOTL's 5,500 families, almost two-third (3,535 households) have only two persons. Let's think about that for a moment: 64 per cent of Niagara-on-the-Lake

households have just two people.

Dollars to donuts most of those 3,535 households aren't young married couples starting their careers and poised to start families.

Yet we continue to build detached high-end homes. For whom? I don't know many young families who can afford a high-end home when they start out.

NOTL has an image to uphold. We have orchards, vineyards and historic buildings. What we continue to build should fit into the context and landscape of this lovely town, not housing that looks like modern super structures.

We also need to think of demand and what we should be building to support the full spectrum of demographics, not just one niche.

People visit NOTL and imagine what life was like in the 1800s. They wander, experience and imagine, taking in the charm and quaintness of this lovely place.

Yes, some of us get to live here, too, year-round or part of the year. Who's ready for the City of Niagara-on-the-Lake? I know I'm not.

**Lara Davidson
NOTL**



A skunk dines out on Queen Street. SANDI JOHNSTON

'Queen Street Buffet' an attraction for skunks

Dear editor:

The Fallsview Casino buffet in Niagara Falls has now closed, however, it appears the "Queen Street Buffet" in Niagara-on-the-Lake is still open.

Why are residents required to use environmental green bins but businesses seemingly are exempt?

**J. Richard Wright
NOTL**



Did you know?

The Lake Report's printer sources 100 per cent of its paper fibre from industry leading paper mills, which use quick-growth, sustainable, renewable plots of land, rather than clear-cutting forests.

The ink is also vegetable-based.

We welcome your letters

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



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Cora Long D.D.

The Greenbelt and the **games** governments play





Brian Marshall
Columnist

Well, the halls of Ontario's provincial government have certainly staged high theatre since Aug. 16, when the auditor general published her report regarding Premier Doug Ford's Greenbelt legislation.

Her report, reinforced by the integrity commissioner's subsequent findings, found that the housing minister's office broke ethics rules (something this column suggested as far back as November 2022).

Between that date and this, when throwing the senior staffer (Ryan Amato) in the housing minister's office under the bus failed to quell the rising backlash, the minister, Steve Clark, tendered his resignation.

And, in the short weeks that followed, two more cabinet ministers resigned: Kaleed Rasheed, under the cloud of possible connections to developer Shakir Rehmatullah and a trip to Las Vegas, and Monty McNaughton, who chose this time to leave public service for a job in the private sector.

After a few weeks' attempt at plausible deniability, Ford, speaking in Niagara Falls, stated: "I made a promise to you that I wouldn't touch the Greenbelt. I broke that promise. And for that I'm very, very sorry. It was a mistake to open the Greenbelt. It was a mistake to establish a process that moved too fast."

"This process," he continued, "it left too much

room for some people to benefit over others. It caused people to question our motives. As a first step to earn back your trust, I'll be reversing the changes we made and won't make any changes to the Greenbelt in the future."

Following which, the new minister of municipal affairs and housing, Paul Calandra, was charged with bringing forward legislation that would reverse Bill 23's Greenbelt land grab, as well as investigating any other associated legislation passed by the Ontario legislature (under Ford's majority) which may have resulted from possible commercial influences.

On Oct. 16, Calandra introduced legislation to return land from Ontario's protected Greenbelt that his government had previously removed for housing.

And, this week, this same minister announced that the provincial government will reverse its expansion of urban boundaries for several communities (one of which is Niagara) after finding that processes used by the previous housing minister's office did not meet the government's standards.

Further, on Oct. 12, the acting auditor general, Nick Stavropoulos, confirmed that the Ford government's use of municipal zoning orders is being audited.

To put this in context, a municipal zoning order is a provincial mechanism that allows the government to rezone a piece of land and override municipal development constrictions (municipal official plans and associated bylaws).

Prior to 2019, these zoning orders were a mechanism of last resort that the provincial government would utilize no more than once a year on average.

However, between March 2019 and March 2021, the Ford government issued 44 municipal zoning orders



While it was once a last resort for the province, the Ford government issued 44 municipal zoning orders (22 per year) between March 2019 and March 2021. FILE/EVAN SAUNDERS

(22 per year), with nearly 40 per cent of these issued in favour of seven of the developer groups that stood to benefit from the repealed Greenbelt legislation.

Hmmm ... is it just me or does anyone else see a common thread here?

And, while Stavropoulos is setting top priorities for future audit undertakings, he may wish to consider adding the Ontario Land Tribunal to the short list.

The Ontario Land Tribunal is an unelected tribunal comprised of individuals appointed by the provincial government of the day, before which a developer may appeal a municipal council decision on an application that the developer had brought before a local council.

This tribunal has the power to completely disregard local bylaws, requirements, official plans and the direction of voters in the effected community — provided that there appears to be sufficient discrepancy between local planning provisions and the overriding provincial planning law.

For most municipalities in Ontario the process is, in the parlance of my youth, "a mug's game" — with the likelihood of success remote indeed.

To illustrate this, during the first eight months of 2022, the tribunal rendered 178 final or interim decisions: 172 (96.6 per cent) in favour of developers, while only six (3.4 per cent) were found in support of the municipality or community group(s) opposing a development.

How could this be, you ask?

It really boils down to financial resources or a lack thereof.

At first glance, one might suggest that there are very few municipalities that can afford to pay the cost of a legal team (and expert witnesses) on par with those of the developers who appeal to the tribunal each and every year.

But the financial issue is actually much deeper and far-reaching than that.

You see, the provincial government can, and regularly does, change the

rules of the game — that is, provisions under the Planning Act.

This can be a directed legislative juggernaut such as bills 109 and 23, or much more frequently, a revision to a particular provision(s) of the Planning Act included in an omnibus bill.

So, let's be very conservative and posit that Niagara-on-the-Lake's 100 on-the-books bylaws were each very thoroughly vetted by town staff to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Planning Act in force at that time, prior to council passing the bylaw.

However, since the legislative landscape is a shifting thing, what was compliant yesterday, last week or last year, may not be today.

And, since these legislative changes do not, in the main, grandfather existing bylaws, this would require a review of all 100 bylaws and the subsequent revision of any that no longer comply, something that would eat up vast amounts of staff and council time and municipal dollars — a cost few municipalities can afford.

Consider the fact that, in the case of Ford's Greenbelt legislative alterations alone, Pickering spent \$360,163, while Grimsby's expenses weighed in at \$82,000 on planning to encompass the changes.

Thus, town staff are placed in the uncomfortable position of having to make application recommendations to council based on the provincial legislation, which may ignore a local, no-longer-compliant bylaw.

And, should council choose to deny the application in favour of the local bylaw (or other considerations such as the official plan), it invariably ends up in front of the Ontario Land Tribunal for a decision.

Interestingly, prior to 2018, the previous Liberal government had accepted a series of recommendations generated by a panel of municipal officials and development industry stakeholders to improve what was then called the Ontario Municipal Board, which was considered to be far too biased in favour of developers.

As a result, that government brought in legislation to address many (not all) of the recommendations.

Within a year of being elected, the Ford government passed the controversial Bill 108, a section of which rescinded the prior government's changes and set the old rules back in place.

So, while the RCMP investigate the Greenbelt scandal and the auditor general reviews government use of municipal zoning orders, the Ontario Land Tribunal continues to further developers' interests at the expense of municipalities and local citizenry.

And the beat goes on.

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



Larger, amalgamated region is **not the answer** for Niagara

Dear editor:

I was interested to read your extensive interview, "Schlange wants Niagara to reap benefits of amalgamation," conducted with the former Niagara Region chief administrator Harry Schlange, in the Oct. 12 edition of *The Lake Report*.

Not surprising from his background, Mr. Schlange advocates an ambi-

tious amalgamation of 12 municipalities across the Niagara Region, to recoup an estimated cost savings of \$250 million over 10 years, based on bulk purchasing, shared resources, improved efficiencies, etc.

It is a shame the interview didn't include the opposing view, notably to express the drawbacks and vulnerabilities of aggressive and wholesale

integration of government.

Some include slower moving, sclerotic decision-making by amalgamated councils combined from different regions (and often with competing and conflicted interests), the complications from size and scope of decisions and the complications to prioritize and manage fiscal outlays from large public budgets.

Further, larger government will rely on a large and encroaching bureaucracy, with the inevitable inertia and resistance to "out of the box" innovative ideas bogging down decisions.

One needs to look no further than the 24-member Toronto city council to illustrate the inability of large disparate regional government to make crucial

decisions on infrastructure planning and execution, and to manage and control public finances.

Experience has shown that consolidated larger government often means less-effective government and higher tax bills.

Perhaps some thought could be given to find cost savings through collaborative efforts of existing

government in ongoing operations and long-term projects, before embarking on sweeping reorganization of government.

Individual taxpayers are unlikely to benefit from the ambitious efforts to enlarge government mandates, but they will be relied on to clean up the fiscal excesses.

*Ian Russell
NOTL*



King St. proposal **violates** several sections of official plan



Patrick Gedge
Special to The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, its councillors and staff are mandated to legally and ethically uphold the official plan and its by-laws without favour to any individual developer.

The proposed development off 727-733 King St. and adjacent to Meritage Lane is contrary to multiple requirements of the official plan.

The developer last week deposited with the town an updated site plan of the property and there were no material changes to the three-storey condominium proposal. These are the violations that I am aware of:

1. The official plan requires any apartment to not access a local street: "Traffic to and from the location will not be directed towards local streets ..."

King Street is a local street as per schedule G of the official plan and confirmed by staff. King Street is the only entrance or exit for this property. This by itself should cause the application for rezoning and an apartment to be rejected.

2. The official plan mandates that parking will be located at the rear of the apartment building.



A 3D rendering of the three-storey condominium proposed for King Street. SOURCED

The proposed building has parking at the front of the building and therefore does not meet the official plan requirement.

3. The density requested by the developer is 22 units per acre. The official plan dictates that the maximum density for R1 is six units per acre and for RM, 12 units per acre. This requested density is almost four times what is currently permitted and almost two times for medium density zoning.

King Street, Heritage Lane and Cottage Street do not exceed six units per acre. There is no compatibility in density between what is being proposed and the neighbouring streets.

4. An apartment building is not compatible nor does it integrate with neighbouring streets as above and it negatively affects lower-density

residential uses. The official plan states: "The height, bulk and arrangement of buildings and structures will achieve a harmonious design and integrate with the surrounding areas and not negatively impact on lower-density residential uses."

The height of the building (with its flat roof and mechanicals) is much higher than surrounding steeped houses eg. 20 feet from the balconies at the rear is a bungalow with a side of 12 feet and a sloped roof to 25 feet of height in total.

This proposed building will be 39 feet plus mechanicals (the height of which is still not disclosed by the developer).

Sunlight is blocked into houses year-round, including up to six hours out of nine hours daily.

Some eight to nine houses

will have no privacy indoors or in their yards.

This all contradicts the official plan, which also states: "In circumstances where a proposed development supports the town's intensification target but does not support the compatibility policies of the town, the compatibility policies will prevail."

5. Under the official plan it is mandatory for a developer to analyze the impact of the proposal on neighbouring houses and streets. The official plan states this in many sections, including on page 240: "... new residential developments in these areas (i.e. Old Town) consisting of more than two units will be accompanied by a detailed site and area analysis demonstrating that there will be minimal impact on surrounding

neighbourhoods and development."

The developer refused to do that analysis for Meritage Lane, which is abutting the building some 16 feet and 20 feet away respectively. This refusal was explicitly stated by Aaron Butler (representing the developer Bice) at the July 25, 2023, open house.

Similarly, the developer refused to provide full disclosures as required under the Planning Act and as required by the pre-consultation agreement. This violated the Planning Act and disrespected all the work that town staff invested in the pre-consultation agreement.

The application should be rejected for not meeting this requirement of the official plan to do the required analyses. It should not be up to staff or residents to do the analyses the developer refused to do.

The official plan identifies intensification areas for NOTL. It states: "Direct appropriate intensification to designated intensification areas."

The developer portrays the proposal as an intensification project but these lots created from backyards are not designated by the official plan as intensification areas. Therefore that rationale is contrary to the official plan.

7. There are three more favours being asked by the developer that are contrary to the town's policies: he wants the length of the laneway approved at 24 per cent less than the minimum;

he wants to not provide a children's play area (as required) and wants the fence facing agricultural land to be ornamental not wood as prescribed.

8. There is an outstanding question that has yet to be legally addressed to our knowledge. When these lots were consolidated for development by the committee of adjustment on Oct. 20, 2022, there was a legally binding condition attached to that approval, and accepted by the developer.

The condition was that the maximum lot coverage for a building could not exceed 15 per cent. If that condition was not applied then this new lot would not have been approved.

In our view the 15 per cent condition still applies as it relates to the creation of the lot itself not the type of building(s) to be built. We have no legal evidence contrary to this viewpoint.

In this case the proposed apartment does not meet this condition.

9. Although not legal in nature there is a simple question of democracy and elected officials representing the views of their community.

Well over 400 residents took the time to register their names in opposition to the development. In canvassing homes, we found 98 out of 100 signed in opposition. This 98 per cent clearly reflects the will of the community.

Patrick Gedge lives on Meritage Lane, near the site of the proposed King Street development.

NOTL's new gateway project design a **waste** of fine craftsmanship

Dear editor:

The masonry wall at the termination point of Mississauga at Queen Street has been skilfully constructed but what a waste of craftsmanship to implement such a nonsensical sign.

At best this design appears as though it's a vestige of something that formerly had a purpose which is presently no longer known.

The arched portal is the most mystifying feature. It conveys obsolescence and suggests what is viewed as a remnant of a feature that once served as the entry for something that has vanished and is now preserved as a ruin.

It is a phony conceit.

Unfortunately the powers that be believed some fanciful elements

were required to validate this assemblage of stone, and unsuccessful folly, which serves as a glorified billboard to denote the heritage district of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

This disingenuous fabrication diminishes its purpose. A simple low stone wall with higher ending piers would have sufficed although an unobstructed vista across the historic golf course would have been preferred.

Might one perceive that perhaps the opposition to this project and the criticism of the proposed plans were not anticipated by the powers that be.

Nevertheless the alterations of public spaces may entail aesthetic concerns that are deserving of significant attention.

It does not go unnoticed that the powers that be, tiring of all the din of protest, curtailed listening to any further expressions of disapproval, withdrew into obfuscation with an abrupt halt to any further reference to the controversy and in secrecy selected a sign configuration that reflected their own exasperated indifference.

The project, proceeding surreptitiously, and with a fortuitous lapse in time and its vailing during construction and its undeclared reveal, has ultimately presented a disturbingly fraudulent and inappropriate feature along the Queen streetscape.

This poorly conceived signage has incorporating with it a bump-out that abuses the historic integri-

ty of Queen Street's military dimensions surveyed during the final decade of the 18th century, allowing for the movement of troops and their equipment now impinges upon the movement of essential service vehicles.

These mistakes in purpose were preceded by the inappropriate design of the Voices of Freedom Park.

The park should have commemorated the release of the oppressed from subjugation within the tranquil beauty of a nurturing garden haven that comforted and refreshed the soul.

There should have been trees installed to provide soothing shade and fragrant flowering plantings to heighten and delight the senses. The park should have included a focal point

such as a fountain suggesting rejuvenation or a realistic statue representing release from bondage.

Either would have welcomed a prolonged respite allowing for contemplation. One is confounded that this park displays a cut and perforated and warping assemblage of oxidizing steel sheets. It looks like an industrial waste site has been placed within the historic district.

This design's reflection of the colossal brutality and intimidation expressed in the sculptures fashioned by Richard Serra would serve more appropriately as a memorial commemorating the devastation caused by a nuclear armageddon.

This installation is ominously unsettling and threatening and sublimi-

nally uninviting with an implied regulatory procedure by which the visitor is ushered in and through and out of its confines and does not seem to indulge the contemplation of the site is intended to render.

There is an odd dissonance between the concept's intention and the physical representation it has been given.

The errors that are manifested in these cited projects add two more assaults on the dwindling charms of Niagara-on-the-Lake, which continues to be jeopardized by the aesthetic insensitivity of those wielding greater powers, the entitled and domineering elite movers and shakers.

*Peter Babcock
NOTL*

Doors Open offers a behind-the-scenes look at NOTL history

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake is a town known for its history – and with that comes a few secrets.

For those who toured 12 of NOTL's historic buildings on Saturday, some behind-the-scenes bits of history were revealed.

Organized across the province by the Ontario Heritage Trust, Doors Open granted visitors the opportunity to visit some of the town's most eye-catching heritage sites.

Here are some of the tour highlights:

Niagara District Courthouse

Built in 1847, the old courthouse, located in Old Town, boasts a neoclassical design and serves as one of NOTL's landmarks.

Beginning in 1862, the courthouse was adapted to town functions, including town hall, and occasionally served as a market, bank, post office, fire hall, library, suspender factory and theatre.

Now, the building's basement serves as a home for the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism NOTL, while the upper level is available for rent for several functions in the off-season when it isn't being used by the Shaw Festival.

Lorraine Horton, a Doors Open volunteer, offered some unique insights on a time when the building was a multipurpose recreation hub.

"They held dances up there," Horton recalled.

She said that groups including the Supper Club would use the upper space in the hall for social events.

"There was a small kitchen, there was a stage. There was



Visitors to the Niagara District Courthouse could guide themselves among the many artifacts or speak with a guide to learn some less well-known bits of history about the building during Saturday's Doors Open tour. JULIA SACCO

a live orchestra and sometimes a DJ," she said.

"It was so much fun."

Until 1962, she added, everything that happened upstairs in the theatre had to be transported up the fire escape since there was no elevator – a far cry from the convenience of today.

Grace United Church

Celebrating its 200th anniversary, Grace United approached this year's Doors Open with a unique self-guided walk-through, highlighting its most interesting trinkets and architectural features to visitors who could follow along with a handout.

Resident history buff John Sayers, a member of the church, was on hand and shared some insider information on the history of the building.

His favourite piece on

the tour was an early pump organ that was used in the church from 1900 to 1961.

The organ is not in use any more, but offers a unique look at organ technology of the past.

"As your congregation gets older, it's hard to find someone who can consistently pump without their backs giving out," he joked.

Sayers and lifelong NOTL resident David Greaves also provided The Lake Report with a behind-the-scenes look at the church's architecture, predating the church hall addition in 1896.

"You can see where the heating was in here and where the pipes went through," Sayers said.

Greaves explained that where a television now sits in the church hall was formerly the site of a large

furnace that heated the entire congregation.

Behind a door in the back room of the church the building's original church entrance can be found, along with the pipe organ mechanics.

Even 200 years later, the church is still looking to expand.

"We're into around a \$70,000 budget to make one of the washrooms wheelchair accessible," Sayers said.

Niagara Lodge No. 2

When it comes to secret history, NOTL's Masonic lodge is certainly a highlight.

Rarely open to the public, Niagara Lodge No. 2, beside the King Street Gallery in Old Town, is the oldest Masonic lodge in Ontario.

During the tour, guests could take a look at photos

dating back to the 1700s and get a rare glimpse of the meeting rooms and chairs.

The Masons have been a strong part of the NOTL community for hundreds of years, dating back to 1792, said Mason historian Paul Kent.

"If your father was a Mason, the chances are you'd end up a Mason too and you'd be entrenched in the community," Kent told The Lake Report.

Kent gave an example of a past Mason: the owner of what was McClellan's Grocery Store and is now the fudge shop.

A grocery boy at McClellan's, Noel Haines, also became a mason, Kent added, simply because of his connections within the town.

"It was a family of Masons back then. Generations and generations. The Garretts for example, we've got three generations there," he said.

Kent emphasized that there is still a strong sense of camaraderie among the Masons, though numbers have dwindled from 130 members in the "glory days."

"The organization in fact, I think, is better than we were 40 years ago," he said.

There are dedicated members of all ages still serving the community, Kent added.

"We've got young men and men taking the chair that are 100 per cent committed to masonry," he said.

"We've produced a tremendous amount of citizens of the years from this lodge. Which is a testament to what we do."

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

One of the most eye-catching parts of St.

Andrew's is its unique pew boxes.

"They're very much a British sentiment," Jane Sanders, a church member and tour volunteer, told The Lake Report.

Church patrons used to pay an annual fee for their select "box," with varied prices based on its location.

Adjusting for inflation today, the least expensive box would have been \$8 and the priciest \$40, Sanders said.

"That was a lot of money back then," she said.

Factors such as proximity to heat – two pot-bellied stoves used to sit on each side of the church – played into pricing.

Now, 193 years later, the boxes appear almost exactly as they were when they were built in 1830.

Sanders said some church members still sit in their family's original spot.

"We have one church member who is 98 years old and every week sits in her family's box," she said.

NOTL Museum

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum is a home base for Doors Open.

The museum provided tours throughout the morning and highlighted antique baking throughout the afternoon with presentations from Pam Mundy.

Along with brushing up on a bit of NOTL history, guests could gather information on the other participants in Doors Open, including Butler's Barrack National Historic Site,

Clare's Harley-Davidson of Niagara, the Exchange Brewery, the Niagara Apothecary, Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre,

Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery and RiverBrink Art Museum.


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Author, explorer **Adam Shoalts** brings his latest journey to Niagara-on-the-Lake

Staff
The Lake Report

Adventurer and writer Adam Shoalts' latest feature of exploration took him 3,400 kilometres north from Lake Erie to the Arctic shores of Ungava Bay.

Now, curious readers can learn about his expedition in his latest book, "Where the Falcon Flies" – for which Shoalts will be appearing in Niagara-on-the-Lake this Thursday for a presentation and book signing.

This is one of several stops on the author's two-month speaking and book tour. He will be at Caroline Cellars Family Estate Winery in Virgil on Oct. 26 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Shoalts, who was born in Pelham, has published four national bestselling books, which draw from his experiences travelling across the Canadian wilderness and shed light on the nature and history of the continent's great outdoors.

"Where the Falcon Flies" sees Shoalts follow the migration path of peregrine falcon for this lengthy journey, confronting the obstacles of Mother Nature such as Great Lakes storms



Author and adventurer Adam Shoalts' book tour for "Where the Falcon Flies" will stop at Caroline Cellars Family Estate Winery on Oct. 26, from 7 to 9 p.m. SUPPLIED

and white-water rapids, as well as humankind's obstacles, such as hydroelectric dams and commercial freighter traffic.

At the heart of this tale is a message about the enduring value and interconnectedness of the natural world, from bustling urban parks to the most remote reaches of the Arctic.

This is not Shoalts' first time trekking through the

Arctic: in 2017, he completed a nearly 4,000-kilometre trek from Eagle Plains, Yukon to Baker Lake, a settlement in Nunavut — travelling solo.

That adventure is documented in his 2020 book, "Beyond the Trees: A Journey Alone Across Canada's Arctic."

When he's not writing, Shoalts is also leading expeditions for the Royal Cana-

dian Geographical Society as its explorer-in-residence and mapping rivers.

Tickets are \$40 for the book signing at Caroline Cellars. To register, purchase a ticket, or for more information, visit the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library's website at notlpubliclibrary.org.

Caroline Cellars is located at 1010 Line 2 Rd., building #358.

Learn & Live returns to NOTL Public Library

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Learn & Live is returning to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library for its third year.

The first sessions are scheduled and have spots available.

On Monday, Oct. 30, the library will host a talk "Where Your Green Bin Goes," focusing on the environmental impacts of waste in Niagara.

"We've had more (sessions) on the environment lately because it's such a pressing issue these days,"

said Terry Mactaggart, a co-founder of the Learn & Live series.

The following session "Spin City: Dizziness and Fall Prevention" on Nov. 27 will provide important information on preventing fall-related injuries.

"That's an issue in town

that a lot of people will gravitate toward because it's related to preparing yourself for not falling and dealing with dizziness," Mactaggart said.

Both sessions begin at 6:30 p.m.

To register, visit notlpubliclibrary.org.

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NOTL Catholic Women's League celebrates 100th year

Sabina Knight
Special to The Lake Report

The St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Women's League is marking its 100th anniversary in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Bishop Gerard Bergie celebrated mass at the church on Oct. 15 and guests enjoyed a lunch and special presentations at the church hall afterward.

In researching the CWL, we discovered some gaps in the archives as we looked back over the years.

The first group of 36 members organized church suppers, quilt sales and other events and in their first three years raised enough money to pay off the church's \$4,000 mortgage, not a small amount in those days.

In those days, the yearly membership fee was 25 cents. During the war years the women became involved in the war effort, running the "Knights of Columbus Hut," a recreation centre for soldiers in training at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Common.

Diverse projects have been undertaken, which



Ten past-presidents from the last 30 years attended the 100th anniversary celebrations of the Catholic Women's League of St. Vincent de Paul parish. Front row, Marion Frendo, Anna O'Brien and Lina Pillitteri. Back row, Sabina Knight, Diane de Groot, Rita Van Noort, Betty Ann Asher, Maryann Larivee, Marion Battersby and Sally Harmer. JANICE WHITE

included involvement in church ministries and assistance to the poor, young people, elderly, schools and the community.

The CWL has supported many foster children in impoverished countries and

sent food and warm clothing to those in need.

The CWL parish league continues to support faith, family and community, and works to advance the cause of justice and charity that our first members helped

foster 99 years ago.

As we researched the history of our CWL we discovered that many records (from 1937 to 1975) were lost due to a flood in a storage area. One small notebook somehow survived

and contains some records from 1923 to 1937.

We are interested in finding more information about the work of the CWL in the 1940s and 1950s.

Are there any pictures of the "Knights of Columbus

Hut" during the war years? Any photos or stories from that period?

Anyone who has documents or records from those times can contact the CWL via email at stvincentdepaulcwl@gmail.com.

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NOTL pickleball courts expand for growing crowds

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Pickleball seemingly has become one of the most popular activities in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

On Sunday an open house at the NOTL Pickleball Club's brand-new indoor courts at Central Community Centre on York Road attracted big crowds.

"This marks a turning point for the club," club president John Hindle told The Lake Report.

"We've put two exemplary organizations together. The best facility and the best club," he said.

Hindle added that with the sport growing so fast, the club had been limited in the number of courts at its home base at the NOTL Community Centre.

"We're now tripling our size from three to nine courts," he added.

An endeavour that has been three years in the making, Hindle said he was overwhelmed with emotions finally seeing the community out and able to play.

"It almost makes me teary-eyed to see everyone out here and knowing they can schedule to play whenever they want," he said.

For Hindle, pickleball is all about inclusivity.

"I've seen energy go into big team sports and all of a sudden you're 20 and can't play that sport any more," he said.

At the open house, there were players with a wide range in age, skills and ability.

"We've got five- and six-year-olds learning and some of our members go as old as their early 80s," Hindle said.

Joy Sanguedolce, a director of the club and social committee lead, is a prime example, saying she had

never played a sport before joining the pickleball club.

"Since I've been a member, one of the things we've been known for is being all inclusive and welcoming. We offer everything from beginner to the highest level," Sanguedolce said.

"It's all about fun first."

The six new courts at Central don't mark the end of the club's expansions, though.

Hindle told The Lake Report that the club is in talks with the town about reopening the outdoor courts in Virgil, along with approaching Niagara Parks about using the old Queenston tennis courts.

New members of the NOTL Pickleball Club will receive three free drop-ins and the club provides paddles and balls, if needed.

The courts at Central Community Centre are open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Top: Stephen Ferley got in on a game of pickleball during Sunday's open house of the brand new courts at Central Community Centre. Bottom: The new courts. JULIA SACCO

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St. Davids boxer is **one win** away from Paris Olympics

Continued from Front Page

logram weight class.

Fighting from the blue corner against the red-clad Abarca at Santiago's Olympic Training Centre, the Canadian champ won the first two rounds on all five judges' scorecards.

She then had to endure an aggressive onslaught as the Costa Rican tried to make up ground in the final three minutes.

Despite an unexpected slip 45 seconds into the third round that sent Wright tumbling to the canvas when she briefly lost her balance, she bounced back up and held on for a decisive 5-0 win.

Seven hours later, near midnight on Tuesday, she was still "unwinding" from an adrenalin-filled day.

"I feel amazing right now," the St. Davids resident said.

"I'm taking tonight to enjoy the win but (Wednesday) I have to regroup, come back down and remain focused on the next bout."

There were two main differences for her match against the Costa Rican,

Wright said.

"The first one being that she is a southpaw (left-handed). I had to make some adjustments going in, mainly positioning and distancing."

The other main difference is Abarca is a "cleaner boxer," so there was much less holding and wrestling compared to her initial fight with Aylin Dayana Jamez of Guatemala on Saturday afternoon.

As for the stumble, "it was no problem for me," said Wright, 33.

"Surprisingly I have fallen down in so many of my fights before that it didn't faze me at all and I didn't give it a second thought."

"The ref saw it right, that it was just a slip and I was ready to go right away."

Wright, who graduated from the nursing program at Niagara College this past summer, has been getting tons of support from friends and followers on social media.

"My phone has been blowing up this week," she said.

"I'm hearing from everyone who is following along.



Canada's McKenzie Wright, in blue, battles Valeria Cardenas Abarca of Costa Rica during their quarterfinal bout Tuesday at the 2023 Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile. Wright won a unanimous decision and now fights for a chance to compete in the Paris Olympics. **More photos at Niagaranow.com.** CHRISTIAN ZAPATA/SANTIAGO 2023

Everyone from Niagara, the boxing community, high school, nursing school, old jobs, my extended family" and many of the travellers she met when she lived in Africa a few years back.

"It's a very cool feeling to know how many people are behind me on this," she said.

As well, her parents, Dow and Judy Wright, are in

Santiago to cheer her on at the Games.

"We are always proud of McKenzie's efforts – win or lose," her dad said from Chile.

"Our nerves, mine especially, really start building on fight day and it just feels like an eternity until fight time," he said.

Their hearts race throughout her fights, with brief relief

if they see she is ahead on the scorecard after each round, he added.

"The final bell brings immense relief. Usually we know one way or the other. When her hand is raised, there is a flood of exhilaration and a few tears," he said.

Dad noted she has not competed at this level before, "so we are in uncharted territory. With an

Olympic berth on the line, I expect to be a wreck" for the semifinal.

"But the best part is McKenzie is enjoying the moment and brimming with confidence."

HOW TO WATCH: Pan Am competitions can be viewed for free on livestream channels such as panamsportschannel.org and olympics.com.



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Fully updated bungalow in the charming historical village of Queenston! With its modern mid-century design and breathtaking views of Brock's Monument and this 3 Bedroom, 3 Bath home offers a perfect blend of comfort and functionality




Dietsch gets called up to Ottawa 67's

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Kaleb Dietsch took the next step in his hockey career this weekend when he made his regular-season debut with the Ottawa 67's of the Ontario Hockey League.

The lanky, 6-foot-2 defenceman was called up from the roster of the Ottawa Junior Senators Jr. A squad to fill in on the blue line with the big club.

Dietsch suited up in his coveted #4 for Friday's home game vs. the Peterborough Petes (a 4-1 loss) and then again on Sunday for a 4-1 home win over the Soo Greyhounds.

Parents Paul and Natasha Dietsch made the trip to Ottawa for the games, along with "his uncle Mike and aunt Maureen who were in Niagara visiting from Kenora," Paul said.

"We're all very happy for him. We all thought he did excellent."



Kaleb Dietsch hits the ice Sunday for the Ottawa 67's home game against the Soo Greyhounds. TIM AUSTEN/OTTAWA 67'S

He noted the coaches told the young D-man that he "played great."

Assistant coach Paul Stoykewych echoed that sentiment, telling The Lake

Report, "Dietsch impressed. He was simple, confident, physically held his own and made some plays. He has made major strides in his development."

The Dietsch family owns the popular Sandtrap Pub and Grill in NOTL and "uncle Matt broadcast the games at the Sandtrap" so patrons and friends could watch.

So far this season with the Junior Senators, in eight games, Dietsch has a goal and three assists along with 10 penalty minutes.

He netted his first goal in his debut game with the Junior Senators on Sept. 22, scoring the winner late in the third period in a 3-2 victory over the Hawkesbury Hawks.

OTHER HOCKEY NEWS: *Poor defence but Predators win: The Jr. A Niagara Predators skated to an 11-8 win but coach is concerned about team defence. See the story on Niagaranow.com*

Complimentary Veteran's Dinner

Saturday November 4 at 5:30pm

At Legion Branch 124
Upstairs in the Edward Boldt Memorial Hall
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All Veterans welcome
(members & non-members)

Tickets \$20 each for non-veterans

Pick up tickets from the bar
by Monday October 30.
410 King Street, NOTL



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Members of the St. Catharines Pistols celebrate their 6-1 championship win over the Niagara Falls Breakers on Sunday. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Oldtimers fire it up for annual NOTL Ambassadors tourney

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

The usual arena sounds of youngsters shouts and glee were replaced this past weekend by the creaks and a few groans of aging old-timers hitting the ice for the 41st annual NOTL Ambassadors hockey tournament.

But seriously, it's a fun getaway weekend for the players and a chance to compete with your peers.

The four-day affair featured 24 teams playing in six divisions, with two groups each in the 35-plus, 50-plus and 60-plus age brackets.

Niagara-on-the-Lake native Jason Paul has been organizing the tourney along with his Ambassadors teammates for about 16 years and he said visiting players claim it is "one of the best tournaments around."

A lot of teams were from across Niagara but others travelled from the Toronto area, western New York and one came all the way from Florida.

"We get the same groups back," Paul said.

"For the most part, I'd say 90 per cent of the teams come back every year. There's actually one team in the tournament (from Thorold) that's been coming for 41 years."

NOTL was well-represented by the Crown Royals, which Paul noted is a team run by "local legends" Paul Van Voort, Doug McClure and "NOTL all-time penalty leader Glen Davis."

When all was said and done, winners were crowned in all six divisions.

The George Werner (35-plus B) division saw the St. Catharines Black Aces

shut out the St. Catharines Teepees 1-0.

The Vince Dalbianco (35-plus D) division was an all Duck grouping from St. Catharines. In the final, Duck team #4 beat Duck team #3 by a score of 7-3.

In the Christopher Paul (50-plus A) division, St. Catharines Pistols defeated the Niagara Falls Breakers 5-2.

In the George Ermanson (50-plus C) division, the St. Catharines Silver Aces beat the Damn Yankees from Niagara Falls, N.Y., by a score of 8-1.

The Jamie Froese (60-plus B) division was captured by the St. Catharines Balding Eagles 2-1 over the Grimsby Legends.

The Bill Read (60-plus C) division was won by the Toronto Islanders over Brampton Looking Back 2-1 in a shootout.



YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMMING

The Town is excited to launch enhanced programming opportunities for youth and families!

To provide input about this programming, you can:



Attend the Youth & Family Open House

October 30 | 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. |

NOTL Community Centre

The Open House will include:

- Child-friendly activities
- Youth exercise and play equipment
- Face painting
- Light refreshments & snacks
- Opportunities to provide feedback



Complete the survey before November 6

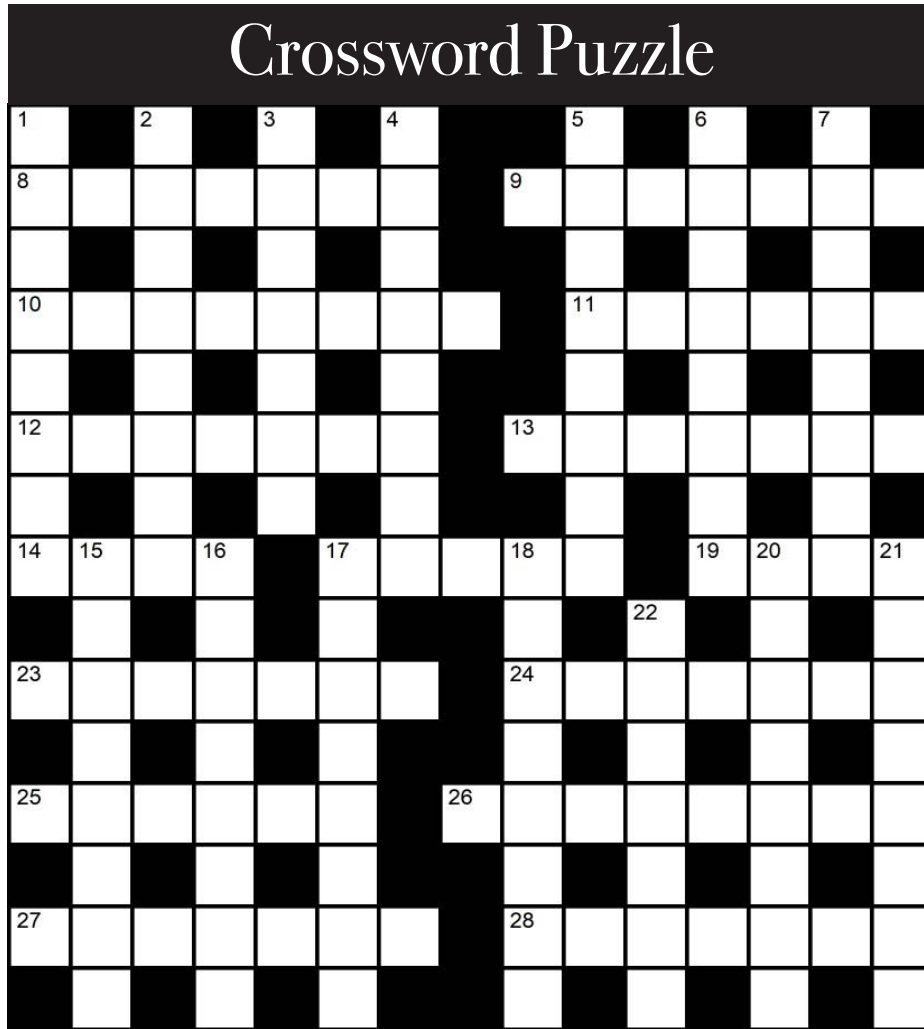
www.jointheconversationnotl.org/youth-family-programming

LET'S PLAY, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE!

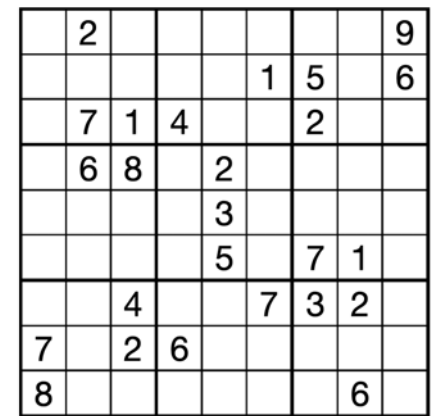
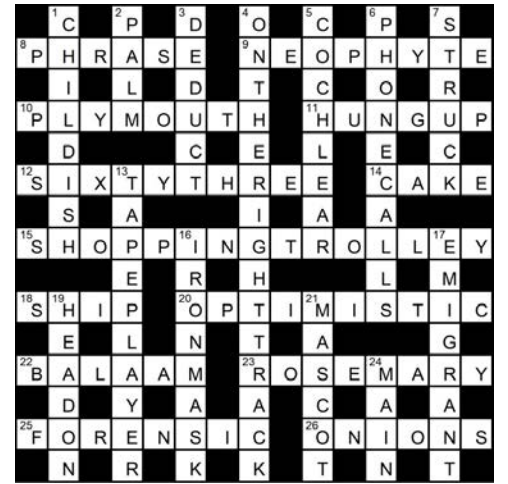
Have some fun



- Across**
- 8. Track performer, perhaps (7)
 - 9. Spock-like (7)
 - 10. Squirmed (8)
 - 11. Power source (6)
 - 12. One responding to a stimulus (7)
 - 13. More often than not (7)
 - 14. Twitcher's cover (4)
 - 17. Split or indentation (5)
 - 19. Bridge section (4)
 - 23. Vets (7)
 - 24. Piccadilly hotel (3,4)
 - 25. Drawn to end the game (6)
 - 26. Spherical (8)
 - 27. Missing a piece (7)
 - 28. Passage (7)
- Down**
- 1. Large pig (8)
 - 2. Had Latin corrected in the Far East (8)
 - 3. Agree it got made over in Surrey (7)
 - 4. Recommendation (8)
 - 5. Duke whose family name is Seymour (8)
 - 6. Explanatory drawings (8)
 - 7. Flowering garden tree (8)
 - 15. Fomenting (8)
 - 16. In perpetuity (8)
 - 17. Ammunition case (8)
 - 18. Road accident statistic (8)
 - 20. Easy (8)
 - 21. Jesus's childhood home (8)
 - 22. Balkan native (7)



Last issue's answers



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Most Nobel winners did best work at **young age**



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Columnist

I'm struck by how old some Nobel Prize winners are when they finally are honoured.

In 2019, at the ripe age of 97, John Goodenough won a share of a Nobel for his work in the 1980s when he developed the first practical lithium-ion battery with colleagues at Oxford University.

But he didn't stop there. He continued to be active in the development of innovative new batteries, almost until he died at 100.

Goodenough was a team player and performed at the top level throughout high school, overcoming dyslexia by taking Latin and Greek, and subsequent undergraduate studies at Princeton, the Fermi Laboratory in

Chicago, MIT, Oxford and in his final years at the University of Texas.

Widely respected for his collaborative, encouraging nature, intellect and experience, Goodenough was more than good enough to be a wonderful mentor to many and always, always, on the leading edge. But how many other Goodenoughs are there?

And what about theoretical physicist Roger Penrose, who at 87 won a Nobel "for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of Einstein's general theory of relativity" as the Nobel committee put it in 2020.

However, Penrose's big idea for mapping the core of black holes came in 1964, when he was 31 years old.

Or what about the 2021 Nobel for climate change, which was awarded to Manabe at age 90 and did his relevant work in the 1960s.

For his part, Hasselmann was 89 in 2021 and did his work in the 1970s, and Parisi who was 73 in 2021, was recognized for work done between 1979 and 1983.

Clearly, all three were



Physicist Roger Penrose won a Nobel at age 87 "for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of Einstein's general theory of relativity." WIKIPEDIA

much younger when they did the work for which they were honoured.

As you might gather from my writings over the years, I've become somewhat obsessed with when people do their most creative, innovative, and ground-breaking work intellectually – and in a simpler but closely related

example, mastering difficult athletic skills such as gymnastics.

The two seem unrelated but the basic neural conditioning and learning mechanisms are in play. In athletics, top-ranked achievements are for the young, with a tip of the hat to the likes of tennis player Novak Djokovic at 36.

For the first generation of quantum physicists – Einstein, De Broglie, Bohr, Heisenberg, Schrodinger, and Einstein – their best work was in their 20s and early 30s.

But as the field matured, the body of knowledge required to get on the first step increased and the need for more collaborative work increased.

Not surprisingly so also did the age at which many scientists did their best work.

As important as it is, there's more to achievement than what the brain offers. There are the matters of opportunity, the right teachers, schools, universities, mentors, colleagues and just right times.

For instance, when a field

is mature enough but not so mature that it's still feasible for a young person to make significant contributions, without spending 20 years getting up to speed to ask the right questions and in the case of an experimentalist, find the right laboratory and funding to realize their professional dreams for answering important questions.

There's also the all-important good fortune to find collaborative colleagues and a setting where it's possible to do top-notch work.

In the case of Francis Crick, it was finding a kindred spirit in James Watson.

Together they solved the mystery of the structure of DNA from which they surmised how heritable features might be passed on among generations – and all with little more than a lot of discussion, model-making and help from X-ray crystallography findings by Rosalind Franklin to confirm what they suspected – namely the double helical structure of DNA.

Watson was in his 20s and Crick in his 30s at the time.

Einstein was famously

without a PhD, without a university appointment and working in a patent office, when at 22 he revealed the relationship between mass and energy, figured out how Brownian motion worked at the atomic/molecular level, and revealed that light was quantal in nature.

And if that wasn't enough, that time was relative, not light.

He would go on 11 years later to create his masterpiece, general relativity. He should have won two or even three Nobels.

The only one he received was for the quantal nature of light – an important piece but not in the same league as general relativity or even special relativity.

Overall, I still think the young brain does highly imaginative and creative work best but with a tip of the hat to Goodenough, Penrose and all the other late achievers. There's hope for us.

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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NOV. 5 - **DUO LEEPA (ACOUSTIC AFTERNOON 2-5)**

NOV. 10 - **JIN**

NOV. 11 - **BUTLER'S BACKYARD**

NOV. 17 - **BLACK STONES**

NOV. 18 - **WHISKY RATTLERS**

NOV. 19 - **RON MCEWAN (ACOUSTIC AFTERNOON 2-5)**

NOV. 24 - **STUCK IN THE 90S**

NOV. 25 - **UNDERCOVER**

NOV. 26 - **RON MCEWAN (ACOUSTIC AFTERNOON 2-5)**

NOV. 30 - **MOONLIGHT**



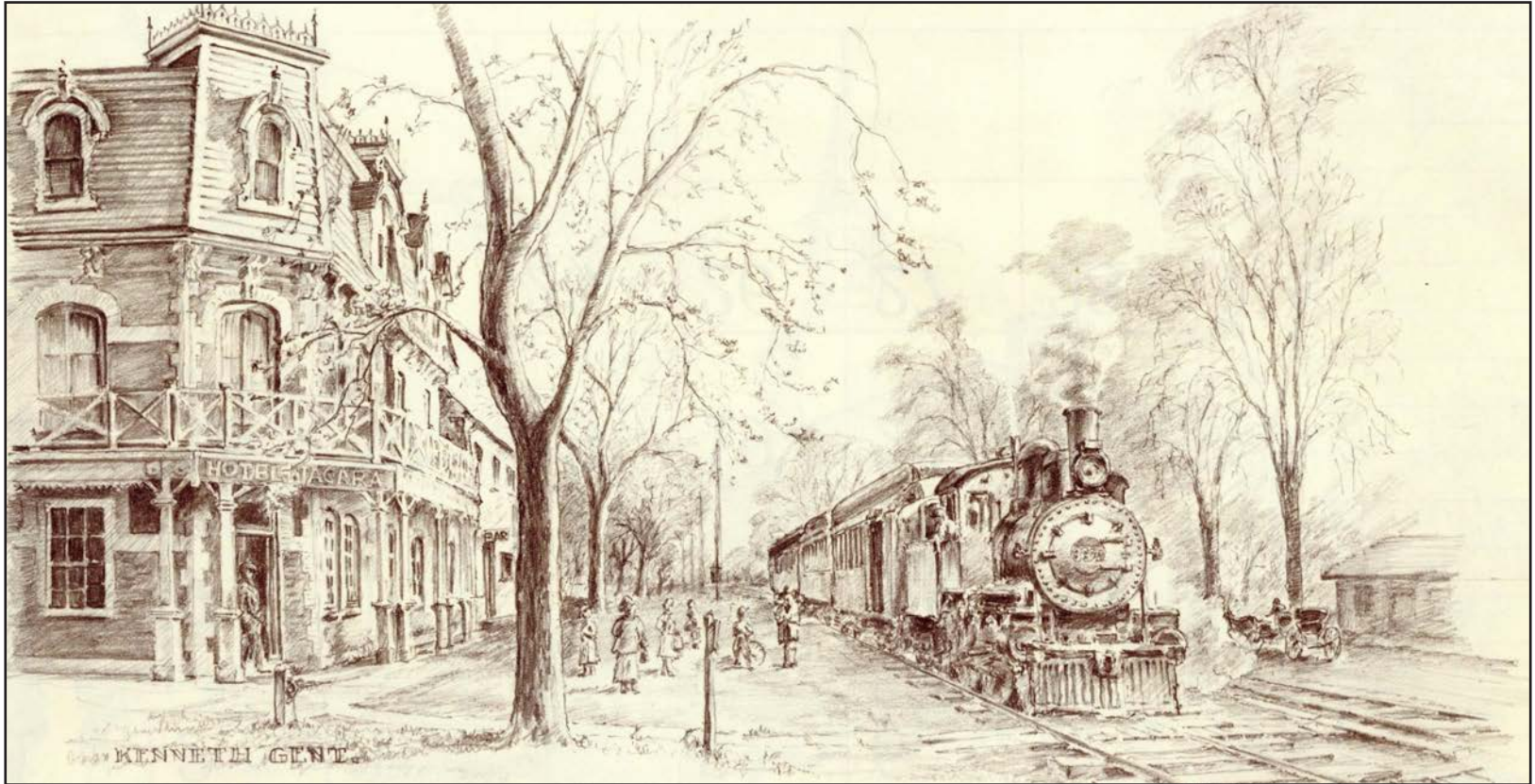
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EXPLORING HISTORY WITH NOTL MUSEUM



The spirits of the Prince of Wales Hotel

William Long, a local hotelier, built the hotel at the corner of King and Picton streets. In the 1890s, Long was involved in an accident caused by runaway horses and later died. In 1899, Patrick J. O'Neil purchased and renamed the hotel the Niagara House. Rooms were rented at \$6 per night. This sketch shows a circa 1910 scene with the Michigan Central train heading toward the river on King Street. There are tales that this hotel and nearby properties may be haunted. Our guess is it's Hugh Hutchison, who in a fit of insanity, apparently from a screeching cat, met his death in the stables across the street (possibly the building featured on the right). Trick-or-treaters beware of Mr. Hutchison and his screeching cat on all Hallows Eve. Happy Halloween.

Let's create a new, easier, Friday tradition for Halloween



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
Columnist

Why is Halloween always awkwardly celebrated on Oct. 31? Mainly, because it has always been celebrated on Oct. 31.

Perhaps too often, I ramble that traditions hinder progress and stifle creativity in our lives. We tend to forget that today's traditions were yesterday's changes.

Think big, NOTLers, and let's open up our minds. Be courageous.

Halloween 2023 is upon us and we have a golden orange opportunity to lead the league, to burst out of our shells and to carve our pumpkins differently.

Think big, and a few decades from now, people will be thanking the pretty town of Niagara-on-the-Lake for being open-minded and

nervy. Unconstrained by the past and willing to better our lives with creativity.

Full disclosure: This is not original thought.

I tend to learn while traveling, and tend to modify, massage and even plagiarize good ideas.

About 20 years ago, I found myself in Steamboat Springs four days before Halloween, on Oct. 27, a Friday.

I had finished my business in Denver and driven to this ski town in the Yampa Valley for a weekend in the mountains: hiking, hot springs and cold beers with cowboys.

Late in the afternoon, the main street of this touristy town was busy with stores all open and decorated for Halloween.

Costumed kids and adults were out and about a few days before Halloween.

Such excitement, with children, parents and merchants all into the spirit of the occasion.

They had obviously mixed up their dates somehow.

Wrong! It was Halloween in Steamboat Springs, a touristy town of about 13,000.

A few years earlier, some



This house on Regent Street is in the lead for Halloween decorations this year. ROSS ROBINSON

open minded locals had realized that it was fairly dumb to get all stressed out on Oct. 31 each year.

Leaving work early, collecting sugared-up kids at school early and deciding whether to stay home and give out treats, accompany kids around the neighbourhood, or go to an adult dress-up party.

There's no divine rule that Halloween must be celebrated on Oct. 31. This is a man-made tradition, and therefore, it can be changed

by men.

The tradition is linked to the Gaelic Festival of Samhain from medieval times, in Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man.

It has stumbled along for centuries, making our lives stressful for a few days each autumn.

It's time to change this tradition for the better.

Let's do a study and then vote to celebrate Halloween on the last Friday of October every year.

Much less stress, away

from the peak day mandated by other towns and cities and the opportunity to save money on costume rentals.

Imagine the relief of letting kids sleep in the next day, not dragging them out of bed on a school day, after the overdose of excitement and sugar the day before.

Plans could be made by downtown merchants to join the party, and give out treats on the Friday afternoon between, say, 5 to 7 p.m..

I have done some research on this sociological, out-of-

the-box thinking.

Celeste at the Olde Angel Inn, "probably" the best pub in the world, has her ear to the ground and after thinking about this concept, gave it an enthusiastic thumbs up.

A friend of mine was recently in Mooloolooba in the Sunshine Coast region of Australia, an hour or so north of Brisbane in Queensland.

This friend told me that they made the big change to "Halloween on the last Friday in October" a few years ago.

It's been a forehead thumper and everyone there wonders why everyone everywhere doesn't do it.

To repeat, "today's traditions were yesterday's changes."

Rambling to a close, is there anything more perfect than a perfect autumn day?

Cool and fresh, plus the coloured leaves in our wee town.

People smiling, out and about, appreciating what seem to be bonus days.

Pray for peace in our mixed-up world and seize the days.

See Halloween photos by Dave Van de Laar at Niagaranow.com



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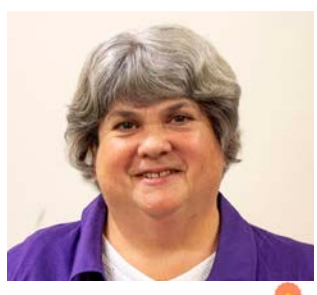




Firefighters donate \$500 to Niagara Nursery School

The Virgil Volunteer Firefighters Association donated \$500 to the Niagara Nursery School on Monday. The money was a part of the proceeds from the association's Classic Car Show held in August. From left, Candice Penny, executive director of Niagara Nursery School, students Alex Evans, Adriana Friesen and volunteer firefighter Jason Disher. The money will go toward enhancing the school's naturalized playground. RICHARD HUTTON

Bring your fall garden to life with colour



GROWING TOGETHER

Joanne Young
Columnist

I think that I have probably said it before, but I just love autumn!
 I love when all of the plants start to show off their gorgeous leaf colours and try to outshine the others in the garden.
 Even though this fall the colours may not have been quite as strong as other years, you will never hear me say that I am disappointed with such beauty.
 So many people say that they don't like fall because it is followed by winter, but we must take the time to stop and appreciate fall for what it is.
 Our gardens can still be a magical place at this time of year.

Here are a few of my favourite plants for fall colour.
Red maple
(Acer rubrum)
 When it comes to shade trees, there are few that will stand out as vibrantly as our native red maple tree, not to be confused with the Norway maple, which sports burgundy leaves all summer.
 The red maple has smaller green leaves during the summers months and then



Black gum trees produce vibrant red-orange to red wine colours. JOANNE YOUNG

turns a brilliant red fall colour.
 As we are seeing this year, some years the fall colours can vary according to our weather, but this maple is always consistent with its stunning fall leaf colour.
 Considered a moderate to fast-growing tree, it can reach a height of 50 to 60 feet high.
 There are different cultivars commonly seen for sale: Armstrong red is a

more slender growing tree with an upright, pyramidal form, while red sunset has a bit more of a rounded head. It makes for an excellent specimen tree.
Black gum
(Nyssa sylvatica)
 The black gum tree (also known as tupelo) is another native to southern Ontario, especially along the shores of Lake Erie.
 It is one that has not been used as much in the indus-

try but should be used more often.
 The black gum is a moderate tree, which can eventually reach about 60 feet tall.
 Its smaller, oval, dark green, glossy leaves add an interesting texture in the summer months.
 In late spring, the tree bears small clusters of whitish green flowers that attract bees and other pollinators.

Its small, half inch fruit provides food favoured by foxes, pileated woodpeckers and wild turkeys.
 In the fall, the leaves will turn a bright reddish orange to wine red, depending somewhat on the variety of black gum.
 The brilliant colour along with the horizontal branching habit makes this tree a great addition to any garden.
Tulip tree
(Liriodendron tulipifera)
 The tulip tree is also a native tree to this area. Its large, tulip-like leaf is easy to recognize.
 Its fast-growing nature will provide you with a large shade tree that can reach 70 feet tall and 30 feet wide.
 It is also known for its unique yellowish/green tulip-like flowers with orange centres.
 In fall, the leaves turn a consistent, brilliant golden yellow in colour.
 If you do not have a large space, you may want to consider a much narrower cultivar – the columnar tulip tree (*Liriodendron tuliperifera* 'Fastigiata').
Japanese maple
(Acer palmatum)
 When it comes to fall colour you can never go wrong with any of the varieties of Japanese maples, either an upright growing or in a weeping form.
 From brilliant yellows to amber oranges to crimson reds.
 The Japanese maples do best in a part shaded location with a well-draining moist soil.
 There are so many cultivars to choose from: one of my favourites for fall colour is a small green leaf variety

called shishigashira (also known as lion's mane).
Fothergilla
(Fothergilla gardenia)
 A shrub that does not get near the attention it deserves is fothergilla.
 This slow-growing, deciduous shrub bears fragrant, white, bottlebrush-like flowers in late April or early May.
 The flowers alone make this worthy of space in your garden.
 Its fall colour never disappoints either. The fall leaves are a mix of gold, bright orange and wine-red tones.
 The shrub does well in full sun or part shade and in a well-draining soil.
 It is a compact growing shrub reaching three to four feet high. Pruning is seldom required!
Viburnums
 The family of viburnum is vast. There are too many species and cultivars to mention in this article.
 One thing that they have in common is that they're all very consistent with their fall colour, ranging from copper red to crimson red.
 Viburnums can tolerate full sun to shadier locations.
 Some species have fragrant, snowball-like flowers and some have more flat-topped, lacey flower clusters.
 They are a versatile family of shrubs to consider.
 So, if your garden is missing fall colour and you are wanting to extend interest in your garden, these are just a few plants that will make your fall garden magical.
 Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach. See her website at joanneyoung.ca.



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