



Bus driver charged after crash sends man to hospital | Page 3

NOTL road repairs a priority in **capital budget** talks

Richard Hutton
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

While Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors got their first look at the proposed

2024 capital budget, it was a memo from the town's treasurer that got the most attention at Wednesday's budget review committee meeting.

The committee heard

on Sept. 27 that the 2024 projected budget of \$10.4 million represents a 7.5 per cent increase from 2023's \$9.7 million.

In the memo, director of corporate services and

treasurer Kyle Freeborn outlined staff's thinking on several projects, most notably reconstruction projects on Mississauga Road between Mary and Queen streets, as well as

Concession 6 Road between Warner and York roads.

In the case of the former, Freeborn said in his memo that staff felt the Mississauga Street work could be put off for

a year while Concession 6 "is in a deteriorated state, nearing its end of service life and requires reconstruction to address

Continued on Page 4

Invasive spotted lanternfly sighted in Niagara

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The highly invasive spotted lanternfly, which has the power to destroy entire vineyards, now has been reported in several Niagara locations and is prompting a huge concern for the region's agricultural industry. "There have been multiple sightings reported in Niagara Region," Megan Nesseth, a spokesperson for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency told The Lake Report.

As a result, "the CFIA is intensifying surveillance in this area," she said via email.

"An education campaign by the CFIA is underway to raise public awareness of the spotted lanternfly, including signs and symptoms of this pest, how it spreads and what can be done to

Continued on Page 5

NOTL takes steps to **reconciliation**



Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, Sabrina Shawana and Audra Maloney raise the Every Child Matters flag at town hall. RYAN BOISVERT

Evan Loree | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake may have reached a proverbial fork in the road in its relationship to Indigenous communities.

The town raised the Every Child Matters flag to half-mast last Friday in honour of Truth and Reconciliation Day.

A cohort of town staffers, resi-

dents and visitors joined a group of Strong Water Singers at town hall for the ceremony.

The Strong Water Singers, an award-winning drum group led

by Indigenous women, and the members at the town ceremony were led by Sabrina Shawana, an

Continued on Page 6

New interim president aims to **revitalize** Willowbank

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

When the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology wanted a chair for its first-ever bachelor of science degree in construc-

tion project management, it turned to Dr. Faisal Arain.

When Niagara College needed someone to set up and manage five remote college campuses in Saudi Arabia, it hired Dr. Faisal Arain.

When Willowbank School of Restoration Arts needed a leader to drive a review and revitalization of the school's programs, it chose Dr. Faisal Arain.

He started his new job in Queenston in August.

From his office at Willowbank School of Restoration Arts, perched high above the village of Queenston, overlooking the Niagara River, Dr. Faisal Arain ponders the challenges ahead for the school.

Arain is the new interim president of the unique education institution, housed in a Greek Revival stone mansion, saved from the wrecking ball in 2003 and

Continued on Page 14



Dr. Faisal Arain. TIM TAYLOR

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Region pushing ahead with **controversial** St. Davids roundabout

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Despite objection from residents, Niagara Region is moving forward with plans to build a roundabout in the heart of the St. Davids village.

Frank Tassone, the region's associate director of transportation engineering, gave the Niagara-on-the-Lake council on Sept. 26 an overview of the region's future road maintenance projects – which is set to include the proposed roundabout.

It will replace a four-way stop at the intersection of Four Mile Creek and York roads.

"We really want this to be a focal point of the village," Tassone said.

Coun. Adriana Vizzari said it was "confusing and frustrating" to hear that the region wants to make the intersection – specifically, the new roundabout – St. Davids' centre of attention.

"I don't know how a roundabout would be a focal point for a village," she said.

Some St. Davids residents are also upset about it.

Dan Segal, president of the St. Davids Ratepayers



A sketch of the proposed roundabout to replace the four-way stop at Four Mile Creek and York Roads. The project has upset many St. Davids residents. SOURCED

Association, told The Lake Report the point of a roundabout was "getting people from point A to point B as quickly as possible."

"As somebody who lives in St. Davids, that's really not my priority," he said.

Segal wants a solution that could enhance the village's walkability and help drive patrons to some of the area businesses near the intersection.

One potential solution, he said, could be to use Concession 6 as a bypass for the traffic now going through his village.

John Gartner, a resident

and former planner, told The Lake Report the region has never properly investigated alternative solutions to the roundabout.

The amount of work needed to investigate a solution like a bypass might be sufficient enough that the region would rather not do it, he said.

"In my estimation, there has been a serious significant bias towards the roundabout," he said.

Gartner said he is concerned the region is already spending money on a design without knowing that it could actually work.

He worried the roundabout "would make a mess with that area."

Gartner said he hasn't met any residents who support the roundabout.

He did not doubt that it has supporters, but he speculated that they live in the new subdivisions and mostly pass through the intersection on their way out of St. Davids.

Coun. Sandra O'Connor was also "disappointed" to hear the roundabout is moving forward.

She said the town previously sent the region two letters outlining its con-

cerns about the project and had not received responses.

"I don't feel the region has given our concerns due consideration," she said. "I think this is being viewed totally as a traffic movement project."

O'Connor also said the region's choice to exclude St. Davids Public School in its study of the area was a "serious omission" given it was shown in Tassone's slide show to be within the affected area.

Tassone said the school is near a separate project that did not require the same amount of research.

The project, repaving York Road from Four Mile Creek to Queenston roads, was mostly maintenance, he said.

The region did not, therefore, include the school in its analysis of the road infrastructure.

Segal said the region's analysis was "narrow-focused."

In its study of the intersection and its impacts, the region concluded that it meets all the criteria for a roundabout, Tassone said.

Despite the project moving forward, Segal said he and his neighbours are still trying to "make lemonade

out of lemons."

He thinks the region will reach a "major decision point" when the final cost of the project come out.

"Whatever ends up happening, we still want to have a voice," Segal said.

Vizzari said there is an "immediate need" for sidewalks going down Four Mile Creek toward the Cannery Park subdivision.

Tassone said these would likely be added with the roundabout.

In the meantime, he said the region could include a pedestrian crosswalk at the bottom of the Four Mile Creek hill to help people cross the street safely.

But Vizzari said a crosswalk doesn't solve the fact that walkers do not have sidewalks to get them up the hill safely.

Tassone said the safety concerns on Four Mile Creek can't be fixed "without a full road reconstruction."

That reconstruction, he said, would need to be part of the region's capital budgeting over the next six to 10 years.

In the meantime, he said the region is planning some short-term solutions to the safety concerns raised by Vizzari.

NOTL community rallies together to raise cash for **cenotaph repairs**

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Enough money has been raised to start repairs on Niagara-on-the-Lake's landmark clock tower cenotaph.

Thanks to residents and businesses in the community, the century-old cenotaph will soon be able to undergo the internal repairs it desperately needs, said cenotaph committee member Peter Warrack.

Repairs were estimated

to cost \$80,500 and a campaign over the past month aimed to raise the final \$28,000 needed.

Warrack said although the exact amount raised won't be known until after a final calculation, he is confident there will be enough money – and then some.

One business in particular that really helped out the restoration project was the Irish Harp Pub and owner Joki, who is no stranger to supporting NOTL causes.

"This is a very historical piece: it commemorates the town, it's the vision of the town," Joki told The Lake Report.

Warrack said he approached Joki personally a few months ago because he is a regular at the pub and felt the bar would be happy to help out.

"It's one of the places that I frequent and I know that they're always doing fundraising events," Warrack said.

Within two days of ap-

proaching Joki, there was already a poster on the door promoting a fundraiser for the cenotaph, he said.

Along with a donation box, Joki said, the pub had ballots for sale for six weeks of \$200 gift baskets, five per cent of sales from house beers going to the cenotaph and a special night of music from Jack van Ginger in support of the fundraiser.

Around \$2,500 was raised and the Harp

matched donations, ultimately donating \$5,000 for the restorations.

Warrack thanked the community for all the generous donations and said more contributions are welcome.

"We don't want to discourage anyone from donating if they wish to do so. Any money raised in excess of the goal will be held by the town for the cenotaph," he added.

In a statement to The Lake Report, the town said

it wants the renovations to begin "as soon as possible."

A start date is still to be confirmed.

Those who wish to make a donation to the cenotaph renovation fund can do so at Virgil town hall at 1593 Four Mile Creek Rd., or the Royal Canadian Legion branch 124, located at 410 King St..

Online donations can be made at notl.com/recreation-events/community-initiatives-events.



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School bus driver charged with careless driving after crash

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Police have charged a 71-year-old Niagara-on-the-Lake school bus driver after his bus struck a pickup truck Monday morning.

None of the 13 children aboard the bus were injured. The driver of the pickup was in stable condition as of Tuesday.

Niagara Regional Police spokesperson Const. Phil Gavin told The Lake Report the bus driver has been charged with failing to stop and careless driving, under the Ontario Highway Traffic Act.

The driver was taking the students to a District School

Board of Niagara school but Gavin refused to say which one, citing privacy concerns.

The crash happened at about 9 a.m. near the intersection of Line 2 and Concession 2 roads.

The 2003 Ford truck flipped into a nearby ditch from the force of the collision.

“The damage to the vehicle was severe and most likely a write-off,” Gavin said.

Damage to the school bus was minimal.

Bryce Brunarski, a Niagara regional EMS operations supervisor, said paramedics took the 85-year-old victim to a hospital outside the region over concerns of a potential back injury.



No children were injured after a school bus with 13 kids crashed into a pickup truck at the intersection of Line 2 and Concession 2 roads on Monday. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Police charge driver in fatal hit-and-run

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Police have charged a 37-year-old man in the fatal hit-and-run collision that killed a Niagara-on-the-Lake cyclist in July.

Niagara Regional Police detectives arrested a man Tuesday in the death of 84-year-old Nestor Chemerika.

He had been cycling on

East and West Line near Concession 2 Road when a pick-up truck struck him and left the scene.

Chemerika died in Hamilton hospital on July 25.

Richard Alan Moore of Niagara Falls faces a Criminal Code charge of failing to stop after an accident causing death and also careless driving causing death, under the Highway Traffic Act.

As previously reported by The Lake Report, Chemerika was riding his bike on East and West Line about 7:50 p.m. on July 13 when he was struck from behind.

Investigators said that after hitting Chemerika and leaving him unattended in the north-side ditch, the vehicle fled southbound down Concession 2 to York Road, where it turned west toward St. Davids.

Once in St. Davids the pickup turned down Four Mile Creek Road and headed to Niagara Falls.

Police seized a pewter-coloured 1999 GMC Sierra pickup in Niagara Falls six days later.

A police statement about the seized vehicle said “detectives noted that the damaged areas had recently undergone repair.”

The truck was repaired with used GMC auto parts, including a used grill, passenger side headlights and a passenger-side mirror, police said.

After it was seized, the pickup truck was sent to the Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto for a detailed forensic examination.

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Capital budget up 7.5% from last year

Continued from Front Page

a deteriorating road base, surface conditions and drainage issues.”

Not committing to the project would mean “significant staff time and resources will be required” to keep the road safe for traffic.

Coun. Sandra O’Connor chaired the budget committee meeting but gave up the chair temporarily to comment on the matter.

She said the town had already spent \$3.7 million on Concession 6 Road and now, an additional \$2.6 million would be required to bring it up to snuff.

“We’re over \$5 million, \$6 million on that and that is something we have been talking about turning over to the region,” O’Connor said. “That’s a lot of money to fix up that road – that is needed by the way.”

Delay, delay and delay

Coun. Gary Burroughs expressed unease at the idea of reconstruction on Mississagua Street being put off.

“All we ever seem to talk about is it’s on the one-to-five-year list,” he said. “Well, it’s the main entrance to our town and that gives it a little more priority.”

Director of operations Rome D’Angelo said the project has been sent back to staff and that an information report had come to council “a couple of weeks ago” and concerns were raised about trees and sidewalks.

“This is a very sensitive segment of road,” he said.

He added that, even if no public meetings were held on the project, “tender specs” would probably not be ready before the fall of 2024.

“This is an opportunity to free up those dollars for 2024.”

He assured the councillor that the project will be part of the 2025 budget.

But Burroughs remained concerned.

“My challenge is it’s a road we’ve known about for years now and we keep deferring it.”



Coun. Sandra O’Connor chaired the budget meeting. EVAN LOREE

How much for that fire truck?

Coun. Maria Mavridis wondered about an item in the fire and emergency services budget detailing a \$20,000 “deposit” and a new truck.

“What would be the remaining balance on that?” she asked.

After staff told her that the cost for a replacement for Pump 1 could be as much as \$900,000, Freeborn told Mavridis that the purchases of fire trucks, because of their high cost, are debentured.

Paying the deposit for item would also commit the town to the purchase, he added.

Looking ahead

When the committee was presented with a 10-year capital budget forecast, Burroughs shared concerns about how costs fluctuated from year to year with a notable jump from 2024 to 2025 (\$10. million to \$19.4 million).

Freeborn admitted there were some jumps, but that the document presented was only a forecast and shouldn’t be considered a formal document.

“But it does give us an idea of spending over the next 10 years.”

He added that the town will need to work on a funding strategy “so it gives some predictability.”

With that in mind, Burroughs said he wanted to look at the past 10 years for comparison, something that Freeborn said could be arranged after the meeting.



Some residents were concerned the proposed hotel on Queen Street could create parking problems in Old Town. SOURCED

Worries of over-tourism greet plan for new hotel on Queen Street

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake residents voiced a slew of arguments against a hotel proposed in the middle of Old Town at a council meeting Tuesday night.

The proposal is by the Van Riesen Hotel Group, owned by developer Rainer Hummel, and a few residents in the crowd of 23 registered speakers shared bigger-picture concerns about the swelling of the tourism industry and its impacts on residents.

“The capacity of this town for tourists is becoming maxed out,” said resident Marilyn Bartlett.

“Queen Street is being overrun by ice cream stores, souvenir shops and other enterprises catering solely to tourists,” she added.

The proposed hotel would exacerbate the issue, she said.

The new hotel would add 81 rooms to the town’s accommodations sector but current zoning on the property only allows 24.

Tohne Wirth, who lives near the proposed hotel site, shared Bartlett’s concerns about the growing tourism

industry.

“Why does this need to happen? What is the justification,” she said.

Leah Wallace, a heritage planner retained by the developer, said in a heritage impact report a “small hotel with limited guest suites is not financially viable” for the site.

Wirth pointed to the success of existing hotels like the Riverbend and Oban Inns as examples of how smaller hotels can be successful.

She said the developer was only proposing a larger project because building costs have gone up since the town approved a smaller project on the lot and he needs “to build something bigger to make it financially viable.”

Bartlett said the proposed hotel is part of a larger trend among developers to disregard the town’s zoning bylaws in service to profitable projects.

She said developers, “motivated by profit only,” are ignoring zoning bylaws, “exploiting the town’s charm and in the process destroying it one development at a time.”

Jeanne Jennings was also

concerned with the impact on the town’s character.

Until recently, she said NOTL had “an atmosphere of uncluttered serenity, space, peace and quiet.”

Jennings also said the property values of the surrounding homes would be “severely impacted by it.”

Most of the speakers took issue with the size of the building.

Wirth described it as gargantuan, while her husband Matt Hurlburt said it was “too tall.”

The proposal would introduce a 15.28-metre, four-storey tall annex building to the property, which would provide 48 of the proposed 81 rooms.

The current zoning for the land caps building heights at 10.66 metres.

Under that zoning, structures are permitted a maximum lot coverage of 13 per cent.

The Hummel company’s proposal would cover 36 per cent.

Pierre Hofstatter, whose home backs onto the property, said the four-storey addition would tower over his backyard.

The “mere desire” of a developer to build bigger is

not a good reason to amend the official plan, he said.

“It is not the duty of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake to ensure the property owner gets a return on his or her investment,” Hofstatter said.

Hurlburt was the first, but not the last, to take issue with the proposed glass fourth floor.

In her report, Wallace said the use of glass “lessens visual and physical impacts on the heritage house.”

Hurlburt disagreed that “glass structures blend into the surroundings” and said such designs in larger cities add a “modern look.”

The developer is also proposing three floors of underground parking with 149 spaces.

That was an issue for residents, too.

Hofstatter said the proposal did not account for staff when it allocated space for parking.

“I don’t believe the employees would be using valet parking,” he said.

Coun. Gary Burroughs had the same concern and said the town needs to address the “potential parking issue” that could come with the new hotel.

The Lake Report welcomes newest reporter

Staff
The Lake Report

Niagara Now and The Lake Report are pleased to announce the newest addition to our reporting team, Richard Hutton.

A seasoned Niagara area reporter, Hutton is no stranger to the news business.

He has worked covering

Fort Erie, Grimsby, Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake during a long career with Metroland and Torstar.

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Spotted lanternfly can **destroy vineyards** and wreak havoc on agricultural sector

Continued from Front Page

prevent its introduction into Canada,” she said.

The agency wants the invader captured and kept alive, and is advising people to spot it, snap it and catch it — but not to kill it.

Last Friday, the spotted lanternfly was seen in Niagara in a shipment of orchids that had arrived from Ohio, NOTL master gardener Betty Knight told The Lake Report.

The person who recognized it, a worker at a floral distributor in Fonthill, advised his boss, who contacted the CFIA.

The insect had been killed by the time staff from the agency arrived, so the sighting is not considered official.

Even though the highly invasive insect has been seen, the incidents don't count as detections in Canada, because the CFIA hasn't collected a live sample of the bug to be able to confirm it.

In an advisory on Saturday emailed to members of NOTL council and parks supervisor J.B. Hopkins, Knight said the Canadian Food Inspection Agency was on the scene within an hour.

“I know monitoring stations have been set up throughout (Niagara-on-the-Lake), but the town needs a plan to deal with this pest,” Knight told councillors.

She noted that, as The Lake Report previously reported, one of the main hosts for the insect is the tree of heaven.

“I am aware of three large swaths of tree of heaven: at the entrance to the heritage trail, at Fort George at the base on Ricardo Street and at the corner of St. Saviour's Church in Queenston, where the road goes down to the river. I'm sure there are more,” she said.

Removal of tree of heaven involves more than simply cutting it down and now is the best time of year to deal with it, Knight advised.

The Town of NOTL will be developing an invasive plant management plan in 2024, an official said. The first step will be to take in-



The spotted lanternfly is an invasive bug that could cause lots of damage to Niagara's vineyards. CFIA PHOTO

ventory of invasive species in town and then determine how to address the situation.

“It is important to note that cutting down these trees would not kill them,” spokesperson Marah Minor said. “A persistent regimen of chemical treatments” is required.

Two weeks ago, one of the insects flew into someone's car when they were crossing the Peace Bridge in Fort Erie, Knight said.

And a week before that, The Lake Report has learned that one was discovered just down the QEW from Niagara-on-the-Lake — in Oakville.

A user by the name of Tanya Campbell snapped a photo of the bug on Sept. 13 on Ford Drive in Oakville and uploaded it to iNaturalist.

In that case, a photo of the insect was given to the agency, but it wasn't available for collection, said Diana Mooij, a program specialist with the CFIA.

“As the detection of a pest is an official CFIA record, we need to confirm the identification of the pest and its location in the environment, which we cannot do with only a photo,” she said via email.

And Emily Posteraro, the program development co-ordinator for the Invasive Species Centre, noted, “A detection is a live, spotted lanternfly confirmed by the CFIA in the Canadian environment,” said

In an interview on Monday, Posteraro said her organization did not yet have any information on the

Fonthill sighting but she noted this is mating season for the insect.

While cold weather by about November should kill off the adult flies, any eggs laid in the fall can survive till next spring, she emphasized.

The inspection agency has been monitoring the location of the Oakville sighting but staff hasn't seen any indications of the bug, and there's a chance they won't.

“Even when they do not result in a confirmed detection, reports of spotted lanternfly sightings help inform when and where additional monitoring may be needed,” Mooij told The Lake Report.

Posteraro said it makes sense for the agency to prefer having the insect alive and in its possession, rather than a photograph.

Theoretically, anyone could send a photo in, so the distinction is important, she said.

She doesn't believe this process takes away from the work being done to halt the spotted lanternfly's arrival in southern Ontario.

She's been in touch with the Town of Oakville, which has been surveying its tree of heaven trees, the preferred host for the spotted lanternfly.

The Invasive Species Centre is also doing its part by providing free webinars and resources for the community to learn about the spotted lanternfly, said Posteraro.

The centre, a non-profit agency based in Sault Ste. Marie, works to prevent the introduction of invasive spe-

cies in Canada.

“We're always ready for a detection to be announced,” she said.

The CFIA also has been increasing detection efforts, especially in locations where sightings have been reported.

The colourful insects are from southwestern Asia and love to feed on more than 100 different species of plants.

Since the insect's initial discovery in Pennsylvania's Berks County in 2014, it has spread, wreaking havoc on numerous vineyards.

Besides the tree of heaven, grape vines and black walnut trees are among its preferred host plants.

With the abundance of vineyards in NOTL and across Niagara, the introduction of this species into the region could lead to environmental devastation.

There have been multiple sightings reported on iNaturalist of dead spotted lanternflies in Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia.

The bug has multiple life stages and at this time of year is in its adult phase, which is the easiest to spot, said Posteraro.

The insect is about three centimetres long and while resting its wings are a tan colour with black spots. While in flight, it has a bright combination of red, black and white with black spots.

In its adult phase, the insect can cause the most damage as it uses its razor sharp teeth to drill into trees or grape vines, and suck out the sap.

If sighted, people are encouraged to snap a photo of it and catch it alive — much different to the “stomp on it” method in the United States.

“But because we have yet to actually confirm a detection in Canada, we do want that specimen to be kept (alive),” said Posteraro.

She said the Oakville sighting is a reminder that it's hard to know where the bug will show up.

The focus has been on wine-producing regions near the border, due to infestations in Buffalo and Michigan, she said.



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Balance in Branch Poppy Trust Funds as of Jan. 1, 2023.....	\$41,745.55
Income from Campaign & all other Sources.....	\$1,061.54
Campaign Expenses & Youth Education Program.....	\$4,546.53
Veterans Support from Fund.....	\$26,339.04
Balance as of Sept. 29, 2023.....	\$11,921.52

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NOTL *takes steps* toward truth and reconciliation

Continued from Front Page

Eagle Clan woman of the Anishinaabe.

“When humanity comes to that fork in the road, it’s going to be up to the non-Indigenous people which way to take,” Shawana told a crowd of about 20 to 30.

The right path, she said, would bring the white and Indigenous communities into “eternal brotherhood.”

The other would lead to the same destruction brought by the settlers of Canada, she said.

Because of this, Shawana said she has a responsibility to show non-Indigenous people the beauty of her culture.

She and her fellow drummers decided to sing “The Longest Walk,” which traces its roots to a 1978 march for Indigenous rights that began at Alcatraz.

The United States National Park Service said on its website more than 300 Indigenous people participated in a



From left, Audra Maloney, Wanda Griffin and Wanda Johnson-Penner drum and sing at town hall. EVAN LOREE

five-month trek from the former island prison to Washington, D.C.

The marchers protested 11 pieces of United States legislation that violated their treaty rights.

“Those rights that they fought for 45 years ago are still the same rights that

we’re fighting for today,” Shawana said.

Rights like clean drinking water and equitable treatment continue to be at the forefront of Indigenous activism.

Another issue highlighted by Shawana concerns Indigenous status.

Under the Indian Act, Indigenous women lose their status and all associated rights if they marry a non-Indigenous partner.

“That’s crazy to me,” she said.

Audra Maloney, a Mi’kmaq traditional healer who also spoke at the ceremony,

decided to focus on the path to healing.

“Many traumas have occurred in the residential school system,” she said, “Yet, I have hope.”

Maloney, who also works with the Indigenous Diabetes Health Circle, said she has seen people in her com-

munity “release the heavy weight of trauma” by reaching out to their community and culture.

“Even through the struggle and trauma” Maloney said her community carries its strength in its prayers, pipes and ceremonies.

Truth and reconciliation is about “building respect for another’s way of seeing the world,” she said.

“You can be a friend, we can remember and respect our treaties together,” she said.

In a conversation with The Lake Report, Maloney said events like the flag raising are good for ticking off boxes but she wonders what people are doing to reconcile with Canada’s history the other 364 days of the year.

“Get curious. Learn to engage in a meaningful way,” she said.

Maloney recommends people who are interested seek out a community elder, offer some sacred tobacco and ask questions.

Comedy night brings Team Pillsy’s Terry Fox fundraiser to **\$120K**

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Once again, Joe Pillitteri brought his love for comedy and passion for charity together, helping to raise almost \$87,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation.

Friday’s comedy night at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre in support of the Terry Fox Foundation featured laughs from MC David Greene, comic Jarrett Campbell and Pillitteri, along with an introduction from Terry Fox’s brother Fred Fox.

“My mom always told us that if we have a talent, we should try to use it for the greater good and so that was my role,” Pillitteri said.

The 320-person venue was sold out and between ticket sales, raffles, the bar and a live auction, the night raised about \$87,000 for the cause of cancer treatment research.

“Our team after this



Joe Pillitteri, Fred Fox and Michael Pillitteri were all important guests during Friday’s comedy show in support of the Terry Fox Foundation. SUPPLIED

event will stand at roughly \$120,000 and we should hit \$140,000 to \$150,000 by the end of the year as a team (for the Terry Fox Foundation),” Pillitteri told The Lake Report.

The live auction alone raised \$40,000 during the evening.

Pillitteri extended his thanks to everyone in-

involved, especially his sisters and family friends.

“My sister Eileen Pillitteri-Smith, my sister Caroline Martinelli and our family friend Colleen O’Gorman, they really took it upon themselves to do all of the logistics and all of the ticket sales,” he said.

“They really did all the heavy lifting,” he said.

Annual *Sisters in Spirit* vigil keeps memories of missing women alive



Traditional Mohawk teacher Jackie Labonte, left, and Indigenous community connections facilitator Marie Bowering unveil the frame of what will be a teardrop-shaped cairn to be a place of healing at Willowbank. The unveiling marked Red Dress Day on Oct. 4, a day set aside to remember missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. RICHARD HUTTON



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Region to spend **\$84 million** on NOTL roads in next five years

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



Coun. Gary Burroughs suggested a roundabout should be installed at the intersection of Airport Road and Niagara Stone Road to help keep traffic flowing. EVAN LOREE

The region is picking up the tab for \$84 million in road work over the next five years in Niagara-on-the-Lake – including a roundabout in St. Davids.

Frank Tassone, the region's associate director of transportation engineering, presented the region's road maintenance plans for the next five years to town council on Sept. 26.

The region is moving forward with a plan to turn the intersection of Four Mile Creek and York roads in St. Davids, currently a four-way stop, into a roundabout.

Some town councillors were displeased to hear this given the amount of negative feedback from residents on the roundabout idea.

Tassone said the region is "retaining a consultant" to design the future roundabout and will be consulting with the public on the designs.

The region is also planning a York Road facelift stretching from the future roundabout to Queenston Road, just past St. Davids Public School.

Because of the proximity between the two sites, Tassone said the work will take place at the same time, but they are being planned as two separate projects.

Another segment of York Road stretching from the Glendale interchange to the Welland canal is due for reconstructions as well.

Tassone said that section of York Road is "in very bad condition."

While resurfacing the street, the region also plans to install some bicycle lanes.

Tassone said the region needs to work with the Ministry of Transportation on this project, however, as it will be part of a larger plan to build a second skyway connecting NOTL to St. Catharines.

Another big ticket item in the five-year regional plan is already underway in Virgil.

The construction on Niagara Stone Road from Four Mile Creek Road to Line 1

is projected to be complete by the end of November, regional spokesperson Janet Rose said in an email.

"We're getting into the final stretch on that project," Tassone said.

“When it's done it will really clean up the entire area.”

FRANK TASSONE
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF
TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING
NIAGARA REGION

But he said the region plans to chew up the next section from Line 1 to East and West Line as part of the project's second phase.

Rose said designs for this project would wrap up early in 2024, and that construction would hopefully begin in the "next few years."

She gave no exact date.

Tassone said the region is budgeting for the second phase of reconstruction in its 2025 capital budget.

Prompted by questions from Coun. Wendy Cheropita, Tassone said there would be bike lanes running the length of the reconstructed street.

The region also has plans for two other intersections on Niagara Stone Road.

Intersections at Line 2 and Airport Road are now in the design phase, Tassone said.

"There's a lot of concern that it's just gonna be a traffic light," Coun. Gary Burroughs said of the intersection at Airport Road.

"It should actually be a roundabout to keep traffic moving," he added.

Tassone said the region had studied the intersection of Niagara Stone and Airport roads and decided a roundabout was not the best option.

"The treatment that's preferred for that location is a signal," he said.

Airport Road, from Niagara Stone to York roads is also subject to reconstruction in the region's five year plan.

While Tassone did not describe any specific changes to the road, he did say reconstruction on the Glendale interchange could result in increased traffic along Airport Road and the region would be investigating the need for upgrades.

The region plans to give Glendale Avenue some attention as part of another "significant project."

Tassone said the region would repave Glendale Avenue from Homer Road to the Welland canal.

He said it would also extend a path for cyclists and walkers from Homer Road to the canal.

The Glendale Avenue bridge will be restructured and two culverts will be replaced.

"When it's done it will

really clean up the entire area," he said.

The reconstruction will make it easier for NOTLers to access the canal trail.

The region has smaller plans for Lakeshore Road.

Tassone said the region is designing an "off-road multi-use path" from Townline to Four Mile Creek roads.

Coun. Tim Balasiuk asked if the region would have to take land from the private property owners facing Lakeshore Road to move forward with the project.

Tassone did not have an answer for the question, but said the region intends to consult with the property owners as the project moves forward.

Balasiuk said Lakeshore is used by a lot of cyclists, is a "pretty dangerous road" and needs work "sooner than later."

Tassone said the region will begin consulting residents on the proposed trail in the first few months of 2024.

The region considered installing bike lanes on Lakeshore Road when it last repaved it but decided not to because the road is "quite curvy" and not safe for cyclists, he said.

Two smaller projects include repaving on Townline Road (Regional Road 61), from Stanley Avenue to Four Mile Creek and some repairs to a small bridge at the bend on Line 4.



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Some letter writers seem to feel a speed camera isn't warranted near Crossroads school. ALPEREN ALBAYRAK

Canada The Local Journalism Initiative is funded by the Government of Canada.

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POSITIVE POWER

Contributed by Patty Garriock

"We must overcome the notion that we must be regular ... it robs you of the chance to be extraordinary and leads you to the mediocre."
 - Uta Hagen

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Editorial

Rallying to the aid of NOTL landmark

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

There are many memorable sights and landmarks around Niagara-on-the-Lake.

In an area with so numerous links to important historical events, we are fortunate to have many monuments and reminders of that past.

But there is none more iconic, probably none more photographed and, given the names immortalized upon it, possibly none more significant than the clock tower cenotaph built a little over a century ago in the middle of Queen Street.

Take the cenotaph out of downtown Old Town and we have a very ordinary stretch of road.

But more than just a visitor-friendly landmark that makes an impressive backdrop for photographs, the cenotaph is a testament to NOTL's history and the roles played by dozens of soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in two world wars.

As was so well-documented by history expert Ron Dale in his 53-part Monuments Men series in The Lake Report, this memorial keeps alive the stories of the men whose names are engraved upon it.

With the cenotaph rising high above our town's main street, it is the perfect setting for memorializing the deeds of those young men who gave their lives.

It also is the centrepiece for Old Town's annual

Remembrance Day tribute, where large crowds gather every year, rain or shine, to honour the fallen, past and present.

For all those reasons, and more, it has been gratifying – though not at all surprising – that after the Royal Canadian Legion branch 124 announced the need to raise at least \$80,000 to do some essential repairs to the structure, Niagara-on-the-Lake residents and businesses rallied to raise the money over the past year.

After looming tall over Queen Street all these years, Niagara-on-the-Lake's landmark clock tower cenotaph is in desperate need of internal repairs.

While it looks great from the outside, that part is

literally a facade. The inner workings need fixing.

As well, elements such as cement pointing and windows have been desperately in need of restoration since at least last spring.

So, it is significant that at this time of year – Thanksgiving – we each tend to express our thanks to those who have made a difference in our lives or, in some cases, have been purveyors of good deeds in the community.

We are grateful for the communal generosity that has helped the cenotaph's revitalization reach this pivotal point.

Good on ye, NOTL, for once again coming through in aid of your community.
 editor@niagaranow.com



Developer's criticism of columnist was **unmerited**

Dear editor:

It seems that the favourite recourse of developers when their plans meet with less than an enthusiastic response is one of personal abuse.

First there was a prominent Niagara-on-the-Lake developer's vindictive rant against Lord Mayor Betty Disero following her defeat in the last municipal election.

Now we have a bizarre diatribe by Rainer Hummel against Brian Marshall, a regular columnist for The Lake Report, who dared to voice concerns about the latest iteration of Mr. Hummel's plans for the Phillips estate.

According to Mr. Hummel, your columnist "has no current professional qualification" but has "a made up label", "creating his own

qualifications" and writes "fabricated nonsense" with no "expertise beyond a layman's awareness."

I find these personal attacks disturbing when they are directed at prominent citizens of NOTL who – unlike developers – have no financial skin in the game, but are simply expressing their views on how the town should grow for the benefit of all and without eyesores

or white elephants.

Mr. Hummel's last line is a gem: "Opinions are the least valuable form of human knowledge; they require no accountability or genuine understanding."

I hope Mr. Marshall will take some comfort from this statement when he ponders Mr. Hummel's opinion of him.

Richard James
 NOTL



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Letter of the Week

Virgil road work is frustrating, but please calm down

Dear editor:

I'd like to begin by disclosing that my forum for pointing out things that don't sit well with me is usually the dinner table with my family, a chat with my neighbours or a conversation with my close friends.

But something happened a few days ago to change that.

An incident I witnessed in Virgil has prompted me to write this letter to the editor.

It's been months now that we have all had to endure the noise, chaos and changing dynamics of our small town under the guise of improving our infrastructure.

I've been known to comment that our town should currently be called Construction-on-the-Lake.

And I get that the middle



Construction continues to slow traffic on Niagara Stone Road in Virgil. But letter writer Susanne Langdon says it's nothing to have a conniption fit about. FILE PHOTO

left-turn lane may be necessary for the length of Niagara Stone Road, the York Road/QEW overpass needed something (though I'm not completely sure yet why it had to be the nightmare that we need a degree to navigate) and that

the road near the Mewburn bridge needed to be shut down yet again (for several months this time, instead of years) for repairs.

But here is my point and the incident last week. As I tried to go to the Virgil post office, the traffic was

snarled more than it usually has been during these months of construction.

I don't know why, but traffic was backed up in every direction, at the intersection of Creek and Niagara Stone Road.

As I waited for traffic to clear so that I could turn left on to Lorraine Drive and grab my mail someone behind me started to lean on their horn.

And I don't mean just honking it, she was leaning on it.

How was that going to help and where did she think we could go?

When blaring her horn didn't get the result she was hoping for she climbed down from her white pickup truck and stomped up to the

car in front of me, which was also waiting to turn left.

On her way to the car she began yelling and cursing and using foul language, as well as insulting the driver's intelligence.

Really, I thought? Was that necessary? We are all, tired of this, I'm sure.

Our nerves are frayed, our patience is wearing thin and the disruption to our routines is stressful at times and most likely we are all feeling the inconvenience of the constant and continuous traffic jams in our normally smooth-moving little town.

So, whoever it was who felt it necessary to rant and rave and rage (the scariest part) I'd like to say this:

Come on. We are all do-

ing the best we can, given the circumstances. Your behaviour was unacceptable.

I've always been proud of this town and its residents. I was not proud that day.

If it had been a tourist that you screamed at do you really think they were impressed by your hostility and language?

You sure don't speak for me when you disrespect other drivers who are most probably equally tired of the construction which, I might add, is only temporary.

Maybe you should take the back roads if it's so important that you move smoothly through town in the middle of construction season. Just a suggestion.

Susanne Langdon
Virgil

No more 'thoughts and prayers,' we need action on Indigenous travesty

Dear editor:

I, for one, am so very, very tired of fatuous expressions like "our thoughts and prayers" about tragedies and calamities for which the perpetrators go free, and we the onlooking public, stand by wringing our hands and promising nothing more than "thoughts and prayers."

Canada's "residential schools" were a euphemism for murder of children by religions. This is a travesty and we ought to be ashamed of ourselves.

It is far past the time to bring the guilty to punishment, though it is still possible and always will be, to bring them to justice. Institutions can be pursued, as well as people.

We must find the will

to punish evil, murderous people and the "religious" churches who were responsible for the deaths of thousands of totally innocent First Nations children.

Let's not waste time with an almost pointless observance of a day of remembrance.

Let's take real steps to find, arrest, indict, try and punish those guilty of these child murders.

And let us not forget that, as we speak right now, there are thousands of cases of missing and murdered Indigenous children, girls and women that our iconic national police force, the RCMP, is doing almost nothing about.

Kaspar Pold
NOTL

Victimless crimes should go unpunished

Dear editor:

In response to a letter writer who equated the use of speed cameras near the Virgil school to a cash grab by the state ("Letter: Speed camera near Virgil school is just a cash grab," The Lake Report, Sept. 20), a number of letter writers have argued that the cameras are necessary to enhance public safety for children.

Others have argued that it is useful tool for managing bad drivers.

Some even argue that there should be more such cameras throughout the town.

Ordinarily when one thinks of criminal activity, one envisages a perpetrator and a victim.

In the case of, for example, an assault, it is easy to identify the individual assaulted as the victim.

Not so in the case of



speed cameras.

Here, the victim is the state who is wanting to record and punish anti-social behaviour.

These are sometimes referred to as victimless crimes.

There is no doubt that enhancing public safety for children is a desirable goal.

In law, we refer to that goal as the "mischief" that we are trying to prevent.

However, the means must be limited to addressing the mischief and there must not be overly broad parameters to that law.

Unfortunately, speed cameras operate 24/7.

It is one thing to have the cameras functioning when children are present or perhaps even during the time that they are in school, but it is another to have them functioning outside those hours or even on weekends or during school holidays.

An overly broad law is difficult to justify in a free and democratic society.

As for managing bad drivers, speed cameras do not address that goal.

When one is stopped by the police for speeding the driver gets the ticket for the bad behaviour.

Not so with tickets that are the result of a speed camera.

In that case, the owner of the vehicle gets the ticket and they may not have been the driver at the time.

This difference is rec-

ognized by the fact that tickets that are the result of enforcement by way of speed cameras do not generate demerit points.

That brings me to my concern about cameras of all sorts (CCTV cameras) erected in public spaces being used by the state to record and to serve as a tool for punishing anti-social behaviour.

This expansion has occurred in both democracies (the United Kingdom) and in totalitarian regimes (China).

If given a choice I would prefer that victimless crimes go unpunished rather than having Big Brother recording my every transgression.

It would be interesting to have the provincial privacy commissioner weigh in on this matter.

Ron Fritz
Queenston

Why in the world doesn't NOTL enforce its own planning rules?

Dear editor:

I'm wondering what is happening when our town encourages people to apply to build projects that are totally contrary to the zoning, the bylaws and basic land-use principles.

There are now four applications seek approval to build incompatible projects that are almost twice as high as the bylaws permit and located in areas without suitable zoning.

Furthermore, all of them

have flat roofs, probably because a traditional sloped roof would make the buildings more than twice as high as any building in town.

Historically new buildings had to comply not only with the zoning and the bylaws but also had to be compatible with the other neighbouring buildings.

Architectural design used to always require consideration of contextualism, meaning the buildings

should be similar in style, size, roof shape and materials to the existing adjacent buildings.

All four of these proposals are surrounded by one- and two-storey single-family dwellings and are totally unsympathetic in size, style, roof shape, materials and design.

So, what has happened in Niagara-on-the-Lake that these aberrations are being considered by the planning department when they don't

comply with the town's zoning and bylaws?

Why are they even being considered? Why do the citizens have to remind the town that its role is to ensure all new developments are consistent with the rules and regulations that have served us so well in the past?

I believe its responsibility should include upholding the bylaws and immediately rejecting unsuitable projects, because by extend-

ing the decision-making process, these undesirable buildings gain more credibility.

Even Rainer Hummel waited 20 years before seeking approval of his totally incompatible building, which looks like any other commercial building in any other downtown, in any other city, anywhere.

Does he believe that the people in decision-making capacities don't understand the reasons why this is one

of the prettiest, most unique and most livable towns in the country?

Is it possibly true that the town is not inclined to enforce the rules, bylaws and zoning of Niagara-on-the-Lake?

Is the town going to ignore the experts on its own committees? Will the community's wishes and the town's bylaws be acknowledged and followed?

Wayne Murray
NOTL

Edwardian Classicism, a blend of French and English style





Brian Marshall
Columnist

On and off over the last eight weeks, we have explored a number of 19th and early 20th-century architectural styles that contributed to the evolution of Niagara-on-the-Lake's existing built heritage.

As regular Arch-i-text readers may have noted, there was one over-arching commonality: from Georgian to Eclectic, all of these styles had "come from away."

And, while some buildings might express a few local design influences, each and all conformed to generally accepted parameters of the style.

But in the last years of the 19th century, that was about to change. Architects in this country took to filtering international trends through period prevalent Canadian socio-political imperatives and arrived at a unique expression of Edwardian Classicism.

So, what were these trends that Canadian architects sunk their teeth into?

In Europe during the latter part of the 19th century, there was growing disaffection with what was seen as the excesses of high society. This general disaffection spurred new intellectual and artistic thought.

In England, architects responded with two main and divergent schools of design, the first being Arts & Crafts, while the second was a return to classicism (principally English baroque).

At the same time in France, the School of Fine Arts, a leading art school rooted in formal classical tradition, was focused on developing a new functional expression of classicism ornamented by integrating elements drawn from Renaissance, Greek and



Columnist Brian Marshall says this home at 418 Lakeshore Rd. is one of NOTL's fine examples of Canadian Edwardian Classicism. BRIAN MARSHALL

Roman architecture.

It wasn't very long before the freedom of artistic creativity inherent in the French Beaux Arts classicism architecture penetrated the English architectural community who felt unnecessarily restricted by the baroque revival.

The United States, with a population predisposed to classical architecture they associated with American ideals, embraced the Beaux Arts style with a passion and architects, led by notables such as Richard Morris Hunt and H.H. Richardson, generated designs for large public buildings and private homes alike.

Despite a history in which English and American architectural styles had a significant impact, a deeply conservative Canadian society saw Beaux Arts designs as more grandiose than grand and its acceptance in Canada's evolving built landscape was limited to a few public buildings and the occasional summer home built for an American.

That said, there was an undeniable appeal to the style amongst many Canadian architects. Their challenge was how to reinterpret the expression in a fashion that would resonate with prevailing social mores and taste.

Initially, they drew upon

the two-storey, hipped roof, cubic building form that the Regency style had made familiar across the landscape decades before.

Like the Regency, this new expression would be symmetrical with three ranked bays on the facade and would boast tall, balanced chimneys.

“As we walked through the house, more and more materials were identified as repurposed from this historic place or that.”

Finally, in nearly every case, a distinctive dormer was placed on the roof directly above the central bay.

The main entry was a prominent statement, often set within a surround that included side and transom lights.

An expansive single storey porch (or verandah), that commonly spanned the entire width of the house and frequently wrapped around one or both side walls, dominated the facade.

Invariably, the porch would display classical elements such as Tuscan or Ionic columns and a built-

up entablature which was frequently set with modillions.

All in all, they arrived at a less complicated version of the classical house, in an accepted traditional building form, that displayed elegantly simplified English and Beaux Arts influences.

It was an immediate hit and became one of the most popular building styles in the first three decades of the 20th century.

In short order, upscale versions of this style with the main entry set in a projecting frontispiece were built for the more affluent. Stained glass and/or hexagonal paned windows were introduced as decorative elements.

A front-gabled roof, asymmetrical version with a rectangular footprint was developed. Initially designed to fit on narrow urban lots, this variant quickly became popular in a broad range of settings.

Early in the 20th century, the asymmetrical facade treatment evidenced on the front-gabled expression could be regularly found displayed on houses designed on the original cubic form footprint.

Niagara-on-the-Lake has its fair share of homes in the style of Edwardian Classicism.

One of the finest surviv-

ing Edwardian porches in town can be found on the circa 1914 home located at 418 Lakeshore Rd..

Running the full width of the dwelling's asymmetrical facade, the porch continues by wrapping down one side wall to a substantial two storey projecting bay. The home exudes the gracious charm of the early 1900s.

Over in St. Davids at 1360 York Rd. is another asymmetrical Edwardian example.

In this instance, the full width porch on the circa 1906 home has, at some point, had its original columns replaced with wrought iron supports however, the pedimented roof with full entablature still proclaims classicism.

Another special feature on this house is the through-eave front dormer that seamlessly merges into the porch roof.

At 14726 Niagara River Pkwy. stands a circa 1918 home which illustrates the original Edwardian two-storey, hipped roof, cubic building form with a symmetrical three-bay ranked facade.

Although there have clearly been alterations made to the roof of its full width porch, the understated dignity of the Canadian Edwardian Classicism style remains completely intact.

Edwardians can be found in Old Town, each of the old villages, and across our rural landscape. They have a character that's hard to mistake.

That said, there is a local vernacular interpretation of the Edwardian style that is somewhat curious and each of the four houses bear the hallmarks of having been designed or constructed by the same builder.

They are symmetrical with ranked bays, possess a central gable dormer, rise to two storeys with a hip roof and are clad in stucco.

All date to the early 20th century and are found on rural properties. Some retain their full width porch while others simply bear evidence of it once having been there.

But here is the unique feature of these houses – while they are generally cubic form, the stuccoed walls of the second storey actually slope inward as they ascend to the roof creating almost a mansard-like impression.

If you're driving on Four Mile Creek Road, one of these unique homes is located at #950. But, keep your eyes open for them on the rural byways ... they're worth spotting.

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



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Sommer Slobodian
The Lake Report

The Lake Report?

Simply put — I can't. I'd take up the whole paper and no one wants that. But I can do my best to keep it short and sweet.

Five years ago I didn't expect to be in journalism. I was a travel agent, after all, but since the pandemic had other plans for my travel career I decided to go back to school for, you guessed it, journalism.

I loved writing and telling stories, so it seemed like the right thing to do.

As journalism students, we were told our first jobs as reporters would be headline writing, press rewrites and odd jobs here and there. That we'd be on the bottom of the food chain crawling our way up one crime story at a time.

I wasn't looking forward to that kind of grind.

This was not the case at The Lake Report.

I am not exaggerating when I say that this has been the best possible experience a new reporter could have.

I never imagined that my first job in journalism would provide me the chance to write an in-depth investigation into the rules and regula-

tions surrounding laundry facilities at bunkhouses for seasonal agricultural workers.

It turned out the feds had different rules than the province and it left some employers with enough wiggle room to leave their workers with minimal laundry facilities — a single tub in one bunkhouse.

The story later won a national award and also prompted many agricultural employers to invest in proper laundry facilities for their workers.

I never expected to have close to 300 impactful stories fresh out of J-school but I'm not going to lie: this job is hard, the hardest job I've ever had.

But, my goodness, is it rewarding.

Not only have I made some really meaningful connections with folks around town — but I've learned so much from each and every person I've talked to.

I know more about municipal politics, tender fruit, invasive species and NOTL's deep-rooted history than I did a year and a half ago.

I've had the opportunity to meet some amazing individuals who trusted me to tell

their stories — like Narvil Davis, a seasonal farm-worker at Tregunno Farms, who opened up about his life in Jamaica, his life in NOTL and why he's been coming to work in Canada for the last nine years.

Or Wanda and Terry Nord, the Niagara Parkway residents who share their love of Christmas with the community through their magical light show every year.

I feel lucky to have had my editors Richard Harley and Kevin MacLean in my corner, guiding me since day one. I wouldn't be the journalist I am today without either of them.

They took a chance on a fresh college grad who still had a lot to learn about the journalism world and who had a lot to learn about Niagara-on-the-Lake.

I also couldn't have done it without a few other gems. Like my work mom, Megan Vanderlee, whose bubbly personality and warm greeting every morning always put a smile on my face. Or our newest editor, Zahraa Hmood, who has been a wonderful new addition to The Lake Report.

Or my incredibly talented

co-workers, Julia Sacco and Evan Loree.

Loree, whose dedication, storytelling and intelligence is something I look up to and admire.

Sacco, whose personality, drive and writing abilities are not only inspiring but one of a kind.

And my dear friend and Lake Report columnist Ross Robinson — who would come in with Popsicles and in turn take our food, but always leave us laughing.

I read a quote by Steve Jobs that said, "Great things in business are never done by one person; they're done by a team of people," and I think that sums up The Lake Report family quite nicely.

We're a small team here, but together we've become the most decorated community newspaper in the country. And the best, in my opinion, in Niagara.

We're a big paper in a small town.

That happened because of hard work and dedication from those here now and those who worked here over the years. To say that I'm now a part of that is an honour.

I'm sad to be saying goodbye. After all, I am going to miss drinking an unhealthy amount of iced coffee every day from Willow Cakes and Pastries.

But as someone who is adventurous at heart, I decided to follow my gut and return to the travel industry, to follow my dreams of seeing the world and one day go trekking with mountain gorillas in Uganda.

I'll be fulfilled if I can travel the world, inspire people, discover new cultures and document it all through writing and photography.

Maybe you'll see my name in Canadian Geographic one day or Travel + Leisure magazine.

But if you do, please remember I couldn't have gotten there without The Lake Report.

Don't worry, I'll still be around NOTL now and again. You might even see my name in the paper. You can't get rid of me that easily.

I didn't write this in less than 700 words — but like my editors would say, "use as many words as it takes to tell the story."



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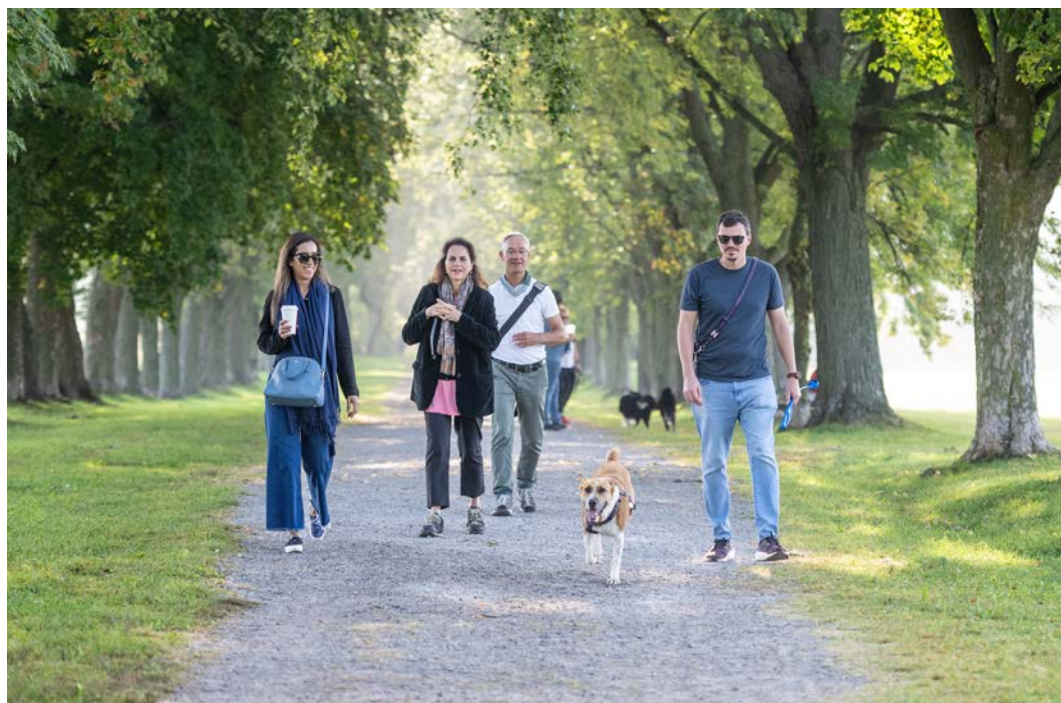


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Falling for NOTL



As the calendar flipped over to October, photographer Dave Van de Laar trained his lens on life in Niagara-on-the-Lake. There are some signs of fall, but mostly, with soaring temperatures, t Canada – 27.7C at Niagara District Airport. Pictured clockwise from above: Visitors from Toronto walk at the Commons, Cesia Garcia, Carmen Gotti, John Trost, Romano Schneider and their skateboard park. Early morning fishers head out on a foggy Niagara River. The pumpkins are out at Walker's Country Market. Chris Allen keeps the flowers and plants hydrated on Queen Street.

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The first days of autumn have felt more like July. And for a time on Wednesday, NOTL was the hottest spot in town. An airy carriage ride through Old Town. Steven Witter catches some air at the Virgil Street while Bill and Sharon French enjoy ice cream with Cadden, 6, and Lisa, 3. DAVE VAN DE LAAR



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: FAMOUS LAST WORDS

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

Last issue:

Category: "D" NATURE OF THINGS

Clue: Woof! Missouri's official state tree is this flowering one with a canine name.

Answer: What is a dogwood?

Answered first by: Claudia Grimwood

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Margie Enns, Susan Hamilton, Jesse Agnew, Lynda Collet, Bob Wheatley, Pam Dowling, Marjory Walker-Barone, Jane Morris, Wade Durling, Debra Jacobs, Patricia Fraser, Edna Groff, Jim Dandy, Nancy Rocca, Sheila Meloche, Catherine Clarke, James O'Connor, Wesley Mann, Daniel Smith, Sylvia Wiens,

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

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School of Restoration Arts **not accepting** first-year students, for now

Continued from Front Page

forged into a private career college, accepting its first students in 2006.

The school is not taking in any first-year students this year, an effort to give Willowbank breathing space to make productive change happen. Second- and third-year programs are continuing normally.

“We know it is fundamentally a good program,” Arain says.

“Over 95 per cent of our graduates get employment in the field. Our students love the way we have offered the program and the skillsets they have learned.”

“In the last audit by the Ministry of Education, (Willowbank) was asked to look into certain areas,” Arain says. “We need to be structured a little more to meet the requirements of the ministry.”

In a communication to Willowbank stakeholders, board chair John Scott said, in part, the new president’s “immediate task will be preparing to welcome returning students to their second- or third-year terms at Willowbank as well as



Dr. Faisal Arain, the interim president of the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts, is leading a one-year review and revitalization of the school’s unique program. TIM TAYLOR

ensuring the standing of the school with the private career college administration.”

For some, Arain may appear a curious choice to lead what he calls the “revitalization” of the school’s comprehensive program to graduate students who will contribute, literally, to the fabric of the country.

He’s come a long way — figuratively and literally.

Born in Karachi, Pakistan and educated in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Singapore, the 50-year-old holds

an architectural degree and a master of science and PhD in construction project management.

He is an academic with 13 books and more than 120 research papers to his credit. He is an administrator — including leading Niagara College’s foray into remote campuses in Saudi Arabia. And he is a professional construction project manager, having been involved with projects around the world.

“I’ve worked hard to make sure my academic side and professional side are moving on a parallel course,” he says.

He pauses a moment when he considers how far it is from Karachi to Canada.

“It some ways, the changes are dramatic,” he says. “We moved from plus-45 degrees Celsius to minus 30.”

“I think the whole life is like that. It flows on its own. We try to plan. But I think there is a greater plan. It takes us where we have to be.”

“My father was a civil engineer. When I was a boy, he moved our family — mother, three brothers and

sisters — to Saudi Arabia, where he owned a construction company. That’s where it started.”

Arain’s wife, Sarwat, a former architectural classmate from Pakistan, and their two children — a son, 15, and daughter 20, now a third-year University of Toronto law student — have followed Arain around the world. They now live in Oakville, at least until the interim posting is completed.

In some ways, his recent experience makes him particularly appropriate for what lies ahead at Willowbank. He has spent the last few years as vice-president of academic and administration for the three campuses of KLC College, a private career college headquartered in Kingston.

As interim president, Arain has one year to realign the school’s curriculum and learning process to conform with the requirements of the province’s regulations for private career colleges — schools that offer certificate and diploma programs in a variety of fields — health services, information technology, electronics, trades,

and so on.

“Our core principles are well-considered — the living lab and so on — are perfectly fine.”

The term living laboratory refers to the use of the actual building and its surroundings for the hands-on experience of the students and, at Willowbank, the students are slowly restoring the school using heritage methodology taught by renowned artisans and subject-matter experts.

“The faculty are wonderful in their field. And they come in and deliver what they are good at to the students. Over the three-year program there are 63 distinct modules. They range from half a day to many days,” he says.

“Now we need to establish the connections and prerequisites. We need to demonstrate how it all fits together.”

Arain views his efforts as a revitalization of the program.

“We know we will never have a cookie-cutter program. And the (private career college) process allows for a lot of flexibility,” he says.

“We are offering a credential that meets the needs of the industry. When our students graduate and go to work on a project, they are ready to go. They don’t need additional training.”

He is committed to connecting with everyone involved with Willowbank in the effort — “graduates, government, students, our community and the industry that will embrace our students’ talents.”

Arain appears to inhale the sense of history that permeates the 190-year-old former estate.

His office on the second floor is a large, high-ceilinged room that still feels the ravages of history. Unfinished, like the challenges of the school. Ready, when the time is right to be part of the living lab, that is a mantra of the school.

“It changes your perception altogether, when you are actually working in a living lab.”

“From my perspective, Willowbank is here to stay, and I think we have a very sustainable program. We have all the right puzzle pieces. Now we just have to put them together.”

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Generational tragedy at centre of NOTL author's first novel

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Debi Goodwin has been writing fiction her entire life, but hasn't realized a novel until now.

Goodwin's third book and first published work of fiction, "Rains, at Times Heavy," is a story about loss and generational pain.

The novel, set for release on Oct. 6 following an Oct. 5 launch party in Toronto, takes readers into the family life of Lindem Kemp, a woman whose grandfather drowned trying to save others during Hurricane Hazel.

"I wanted to show how a single death can permeate through three generations," Goodwin told The Lake Report.

The inspiration for this novel struck, Goodwin said, while walking with her husband along the Humber River and passing the stone monument in dedication to

the five firefighters who died rescuing people during Hurricane Hazel.

"I kept passing that monument and I kept thinking, 'What happened to those families of the five men?'" Goodwin said.

From there, Goodwin began to read all first-hand accounts of the hurricane and began to write the novel.

"We moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2014 and I had the outline and maybe the beginning of a draft by that point," she said.

Goodwin told The Lake Report that when her husband Peter became ill in 2015, that draft was put aside and she began writing her second non-fiction book, "A Victory Garden for Trying Time," which captured a year of caring for her husband with cancer.

She picked up the draft again during the pandemic, citing COVID as a time for writing and reflection.

"I was totally stuck at home, which in a way allowed me to tear the whole thing apart, analyze it, put it back together again and really polish it," Goodwin said.

After completing the novel it was sent to agents and then the long process of finding a publisher began. Goodwin was granted an audiobook deal for North America and Russian translation rights were sold.

Goodwin enjoyed dabbling in fiction writing again after her first two books which were journalistic in nature, she said.

"Novels of course are totally different. I have a couple that I have worked on before," she said.

"It's your imagination and getting to know your characters. Taking the time to almost interview them and know everything about them, even if certain things don't go into the book."

Goodwin explained that



Debi Goodwin releases her first novel, "Rains, at Times Heavy" on Oct. 6. RICHARD HARLEY

fiction writing has always been a part of her life: even after a career in journalism and script writing at CBC, she has never left creative storytelling.

Novel writing has given her a chance to get back into what she really loves, she said.

"I hope (readers) identify with the characters, one of them in particular has a sad outcome and I hope they get attached to those characters," Goodwin said.

Goodwin also added that she is currently working on other new projects and for people to keep an eye out.

"Now that I've got the bug, I'm going to continue," she said.

"Rains, at Times Heavy" is available on Friday, Oct. 6, and there will be a launch celebration at Mahtay Cafe in St. Catharines on Thursday, Oct. 12 at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free.



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Twilight Jazz and Blues Series back for 11th year

Richard Hutton
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Juliet Dunn remembered a time when she was speaking with her late husband and jazz partner Peter Shea about the TD Niagara Jazz Festival.

"He used to ask me how long I was going to do the festival, saying how stressful it is," Dunn, the festival's co-creator, recalled. "I said, after all this work, at least 10 years."

Now, music lovers can celebrate as the festival is gearing up for year 11, starting with a trio of shows at The Hare Wine Co.

The monthly Twilight Jazz and Blues Series — Niagara-on-the-Lake Edition will make its debut on Oct. 16 with a show by the Nick Maclean Quartet, featuring Brownman Ali.

Pianist Maclean and trumpeter Ali will be joined by fellow jazz veterans Ben Duff on bass and Jacob Wutzke on piano.

The show will also celebrate



The Nick Maclean Quartet, featuring Brownman Ali, will kick off the TD Niagara Jazz Festival's Twilight Jazz and Blues Series at The Hare Wine Co. on Oct. 16. SUPPLIED

the release of the group's CD, "Convergence," a successor to the quarter's debut effort, "Rites of Ascension."

For her part, Dunn, who is also the festival's executive artistic producer, is happy with its progress over the course of more than a decade.

"It just keeps getting better and better," she said.

The series continues on Nov. 20 with a show by The George Koller Trio, followed by a show on Dec. 18 by The Shirantha Beddage Quartet. More

shows will be added. All shows are at 7 p.m.

Dunn, meanwhile, said she is grateful the Hare is hosting the shows. The winery has been the venue for the Twilight Jazz and Blues Series since last year. Previously, it was held in St. Catharines.

"We're just really glad to be back in there," she said. "It's such a great venue."

And while Shea passed away in 2022, he will be a part of the festival in spirit, Dunn said.

"We're bringing back Peter's piano. It will be great to have an acoustic piano there."

The series is also introducing a new sponsor into the mix, with Kim Schwenker of Sotheby's International Realty now coming on board to support the show.

Individual shows are \$39 each while a series pass is available for \$99. Both are plus taxes and fees.

Tickets for all shows can be purchased at showpass.com.

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'Undisciplined' Predators need late comeback to beat Flyers

Kevan Dowd
The Lake Report

Another win last Friday night keeps the Jr. A Niagara Predators' record in the positives but the closeness of the game versus the 0-6-0 Toronto Flyers had the coaching staff concerned.

Though the 7-3 final looks good on paper, it belies the fact a four-goal, third-period comeback was needed to beat a last-place team.

"You can't allow a team like this to score three goals on you," said Predators head coach Kevin Taylor. "It should have been 7-1 or 7-0. So, I was upset with the way they played."

Isaac Locker got the Predators on the scoreboard early just shy of four minutes in but things remained tight for nearly 20 minutes before Logan Baillie was able to manage his team's second.

Another for Locker had things looking up but a three-goal rally by Toronto meant a tie game with just



The Jr. A Predators recovered in third period for a 7-3 win on Friday. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

11 minutes left in the third period.

A strong response from Niagara saw Reese Bisci book-ending Baillie's second point of the night with two power-play goals, plus the Predators' final tally from Dylan Denning with five minutes left on the clock.

Despite the late comeback, Taylor did not feel it should have been necessary against a team that sits

last in the Greater Metro Hockey League's south division.

"That's something to build on but it just sucks that we put ourselves in that position," Taylor said about the third period scramble.

"We should be working on things but instead of working on things we're just trying to survive."

"You're playing survival hockey instead of working on the little things. So,

when we do play the top teams, you haven't worked on those kinds of things against the weaker teams."

With Niagara's next opponents being the undefeated Durham Roadrunners, the Predators will officially be put to the test and with a week between each of their first four games, Taylor does not think their schedule is helping them.

That and his belief his team needs to be more

disciplined, something he said he began to notice in practice between their two most recent games.

"What I saw on Wednesday was you blow the whistle, they're not coming to you, they're shooting the pucks, stickhandling, standing beside their buddy talking. And I felt like Thursday's practice I spent more time saying 'hey guys, pay attention.'"

"Those are things that are bothering me because it shows it's an undisciplined team. It's just been a long week in between the one game here. It's tough when you have to go a whole week for the next game."

The week-long gaps between their games so far is owed in part to the folding of the Windsor Aces, who the Predators were originally slated to play in week two.

Instead, this upcoming weekend will mark their first back-to-back games of the season, playing Durham Friday, followed by the

Northumberland Stars the next day.

In that time, Taylor will have to figure out how to rein-in his players, but finding a balance of disciplining his team without resorting to just harsh words is a challenge.

"That's the struggle with coaching now, is people tune you out, so you have to pick and choose," he said.

"It's tough because you're constantly criticizing players and what they do. And they think they're doing well and you have to fix it. The only time it benefits, is when you get a win," he said.

"If you start yelling all the time and you don't get a win, then they tune you out. I think we have a good bunch of guys here, but they're young. They're learning."

The Predators face Durham – their toughest opponent yet – this Friday, Oct. 6 at the Meridian Credit Union Arena. Puck drops at 7:30 p.m.



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Have some fun



Across

- 1. It preceded the C I S (1,1,1,1)
- 3. Comes before a sentence (10)
- 10. In a higher bracket (9)
- 11. School tool (5)
- 12. Taggers' normal medium (5-5)
- 13. Ore vein (4)
- 15. Mission Impossible's --- Hunt (5)
- 16. Those who change to suit the circumstances (8)
- 20. Eternity is about the whole (8)
- 23. South American ruminant (5)
- 25. One of five on D-Day (4)
- 27. Two-sided (10)
- 29. This Tom had a cabin (5)
- 30. Knock hen out for 25% (3-6)
- 31. Silver lining (6,4)
- 32. Reply request (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1. Not cleaned (8)
- 2. Spiky customer on the seabed (3,6)
- 4. Site of major WW2 battle in the Pacific (7)
- 5. Roofed open gallery attached to a house (7)
- 6. Known in Eire as "the rebel city" (4)
- 7. Icehouse? (5)
- 8. Turbulent Severn causes anxiety (6)
- 9. Avoiding the outdoors (7,2)
- 14. Small daggers (9)
- 17. Foundation of pointillism (3)
- 18. Comforts (9)
- 19. Operated by 29 Across, perhaps (8)
- 21. Paper cutters, maybe (7)
- 22. Important period for accountants (4-3)
- 24. City satellite (6)
- 26. Plain code for computers (1,1,1,1,1)
- 28. Common term for computer and web programs (4)

Crossword Puzzle

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

1	A	L	L	U	P	4	B	R	E	A	K	F	A	S	T	
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9	3				6		7	
6	8		1					



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Fixing lethal genetic diseases is **not easy or cheap**



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Columnist

Well before Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier received their richly deserved Nobel Prize in 2022 for pioneering work on gene editing, it was obvious the practice held great promise for hundreds of hereditary diseases.

What wasn't so obvious then or now were the many stumbling blocks on the way to success.

The low-hanging fruit for gene editing is single protein-encoding genes, which in their mutant dysfunctional form lead to the formation of mutant forms of proteins.

This interferes with the normal function of those proteins and failure, even death, of the target cells, whether in the bone mar-

row, muscles or nervous system.

Examples include sickle cell anemia, thalassemia, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, myotonic dystrophy and progressive muscular atrophy.

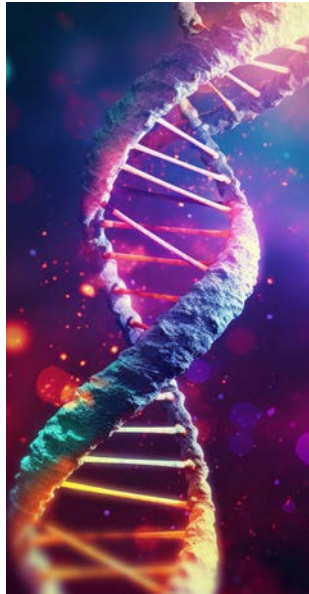
All are potentially fixable if enough normally functioning copies of the genes can be inserted into enough affected cells: motoneurons in the case of progressive muscular atrophy and muscle fibres in myotonic dystrophy and Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

This must be done before too many of those cells are lost. That's the hope and the enormous challenge.

We've learned what sometimes works in experimental models of human hereditary diseases in animals and tissue cultures is, too often, not transferable to human patients.

That can make it hard to anticipate problems with human studies based on those models.

One example was a clinical trial of gene editing in Duchenne muscular dystrophy. This is a X-linked disorder in which a mutant



gene on the one X chromosome in males produces a mutant version of the protein dystrophin, normal functioning copies of which are vital to the integrity of muscle fibres.

However, the mutant form of the dystrophin gene leads to fragile, easily shredded muscle fibres, and progressive weakness then death usually before age 20.

The challenge with Duchenne muscular dystrophy was to get enough functioning versions of the dystrophin gene into a high enough proportion

of muscle fibres in enough muscles to make a clinical difference – to significantly slow, arrest or even reverse the disease.

The scientists hit two obstacles. First, the dystrophin gene is a giant – one of the largest in the human genome – far too large to piggyback on the adenoviruses used to vector the gene into the muscles.

Second, the number of muscle fibres in the body makes it hard to bundle sufficient virus-gene packets in a single inoculating dose to reach most of the muscle fibres in the body without provoking an immune response to the genes and virus.

And any follow-up shots would surely meet an even more vigorous immune and destroy most of the injected genes.

The solution was to engineer a much smaller version of the normal dystrophin gene containing only the essentials – small enough to be packaged in the adenovirus.

Unfortunately, the truncated version of the normal gene wasn't effective enough to create

meaningful amounts of the dystrophin protein in the muscle fibres of patients with Duchenne.

That shortcoming was made worse by the inability of scientists to inoculate the patients with enough virus and the truncated version of the dystrophin gene, to ensure that high levels of the truncated gene were created, while avoiding a serious autoimmune responses to the virus or the dystrophin gene.

There are other possibilities. Some scientists would like to use CRISPR or some version of that method, to edit the patient's own dystrophin genes.

CRISPR contains an RNA guide tailored to match part of the mutant dystrophin gene and thus lock onto the targeted gene, and with CRISPR's attached enzyme, cut out the mutant portion of the gene and replace it with a healthy piece of the gene.

The plus is the CRISPR system is much smaller and easier to package with the adenovirus.

The downside of CRISPR is the risk of unintended consequences.

For example, the RNA guide might attach itself to a part of the genome similar in its base sequence to the intended target but with a different function, which might be lost. It's difficult to anticipate such off-target mishaps with CRISPR.

The story I've told may be intimidatingly complex, but the actual art of modifying genes is far more complex and challenging because of technical problems at several levels.

But as with much of science, it's a matter of test and verify as many times as necessary.

That's how science in biology progresses: one step at a time. Even then, sometimes mistakes are made because all the challenges couldn't be anticipated at the outset.

But for the most part, science is good at learning from mistakes, whether with gene editing, or figuring out how the universe works..

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

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EXPLORING PHOTOS WITH NOTL MUSEUM



Give thanks to our farmers

As we celebrate the harvest and give thanks for all that we have, here is a photo of Richard Livingstone ploughing with his horses in Homer, circa 1912 to 1920. In Niagara-on-the-Lake, we are so fortunate to be surrounded by agriculture. We can run out and grab fresh fruit, vegetables, wine, cider or beer straight from the grower/producer themselves. Thank you to all of Niagara-on-the-Lake's farmers for making sure we have fresh food to enjoy every year. And happy Thanksgiving from the NOTL Museum.

A perfect NOTL weekend with lots of love to go 'round



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
Columnist

In NOTL, visitors feel relaxed and welcome.

At 3 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, and again the next day, I rode my bike on a leisurely trip from the Court House out to Walker's Market on the Parkway. Just to feel the vibe, eh?

For energy, I stopped into Fritters on the Lake on King Street. Zoran Alimpic and his wife Dusanka are masters of enthusiasm and making apple fritters.

Customers from hither and yon were handled with Grecian alacrity and a warm attitude, feeling like they were getting a snack at a small shop in Athens.

The freshly-fried and warm fritters were excellent, especially after Zoran added a free scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Out past Fort George and along our wonderful Park-

way fitness path to Walker's Market, where we were delighted by warm and cozy autumn decorations.

Corn stalks, hay bales, multi-coloured pumpkins with and without warts and blemishes, and yellow, white and reddish mums.

We had the traditional pleasant chat with old pal and fifth-generation Jimmy Walker, who was busy laying new sod around the peaceful and well-visited mini roadside chapel they maintain.

He described their supply chain issues trying to keep fresh cob on the corn (or is it corn on the cob?) for the upcoming Thanksgiving long weekend.

They are doing their best. For me, this is an annual must-do meal, with hot apple cider.

Did I mention their pumpkin pie ice cream? Or freshly-baked pies and tarts of various sizes? All baking done by locals, adding to the good taste.

I returned to town via Veteran's Memorial Park, and was saddened to see completely unused soccer fields (my friends, kids don't "just play" any more.) Empty tennis courts and the municipal swimming pool without a drop of water in it.

An idea hit me upside the



Zoran at Fritters on the Lake serves up fantastic fritters and friendship to lucky customers on King Street. ROSS ROBINSON

head. We are surrounded by the Niagara River and Lake Ontario, but yes, it would be nice to have an indoor pool.

Instead of a new and very expensive build in St. Davids, let's get the engineering types at our well staffed NOTL Parks and Recreation department to investigate enclosing the existing pool in Memorial Park.

Butler building or bubble, let's look at this concept. I'm just rambling, which is what I do.

A existing water filtration plant, change rooms and toilet facilities, plenty of free parking in place, and the pool unused for most of the year.

Even during the summer months, there are plenty of hours when the large pool is under-utilized, and on the

odd occasion when the soccer fields are being played upon, the swimmers could be forewarned.

The well-maintained ball diamond is sad, and used, only rarely, by NOTLers of any age.

After a delightful bike ride back to town, I observed the Sentineal Carriages operation on King Street, across from Fritters on the Lake. Carriage drivers are smartly attired in black and white equestrian outfits, with classy top hats to add a sense of "Je ne sais quoi." I don't know what it is, but they add class to our town.

Meagan Sentineal was there, and back from a very horsey working trip to Invercargill in the Southland region of New Zealand.

In 1975, well-known Invercargill standardbred

veterinarian Dr. Peter Williams had schooled me in the art of freeze branding.

And I learned way back then that even those "on the inside on the backstretch" lost more money than they made at the horse races.

The bitter and expensive episode of Private Label failing to Quicken in the last furlong at Winton in 2001 turned out to be a money-saving lesson as I avoided betting on the ponies as life went on.

Meagan and her very big Belgian horse Whisky, with a freshly braided mane, delighted passengers by posing for souvenir photographs, and the horse munched on fresh carrots shyly offered by nervous children.

This is a very big event in a child's life, especially for two youngsters with special needs who were being treated by their kind and patient parents.

There is so much love in our world that we should slow down and notice more often.

Carriage ride co-ordinator Hayley Beattie was running the horse and carriage business with professionalism and smiles, making each customer feel special.

Now this is great marketing: making people feel

important. They will be back to Niagara-on-the-Lake with friends.

Just think how incredibly peaceful our little town could be if we made a big change. It hit me when I returned to the Court House at 4:30 p.m.: Was there a convention of souped up, high revving, open piped, music blaring muscle cars and motorcycles?

A good number of them took particular delight in gunning motors as they passed the cenotaph. It really is a cacophony of sound, so unneeded in our peaceful town.

Folks, it's been done all over the world. Figure it out, and get rid of a lot of the vehicles on Queen Street. Just sayin' – again.

In closing, is it too late ramble and suggest NOTL joins the intelligent trend and celebrate Halloween on the last Saturday of October each year? Lots of towns already do.

No more rushing home from school and work and no more exhausted, sugared-up kids trying to get to school the next day.

Remember, "today's traditions were yesterday's changes."

Be bold and brave. Embrace change. It's good for the soul.



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Here one day, gone the next. Literally



Left: Rudy Enns hugs the massive oak tree in the orchard across from his NOTL home. Above: One day after Enns hugged it, down it came. Enns, with his daughter Julianne, left, and her partner, Stephanie Domanic, mourn the fallen giant oak tree. SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Fall gardening folklore and fallacies



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Columnist



According to legend, the wider the rusty-brown section is on a woolly bear caterpillar, the milder the winter will be. But so far Joanne Young hasn't seen any this year so the jury's out.

Being a lover of all things to do with nature, I love all the folklore focused on weather, trees, leaves, fruit and seeds.

Way before science-based weather forecasting was a thing (and we all know how accurate that is), people looked for certain indicators around them in nature to predict the coming weather.

I know that there are some of you that will say that much of these tales are nonsense, but many of them can also be explained with the use of science.

So, maybe there is more fact in them than what you first think.

Just remember that behind any wise garden proverb is a wise gardener.

Here are several bits of gardening folklore concerning fall:

- The earlier that the fall colours peak, the milder that winter will be.

- The brighter the leaf colours are in fall, the colder and snowier the winter will be.

- Leaves dropping early in the season predicts a mild winter. Leaves clinging to

their trees later into autumn foreshadows a severe winter.

- When spring blooming plants have a second bloom in fall, expect a cold winter. So far this fall I have seen some creeping phlox with some blooms on them and a leatherleaf viburnum in full bloom when it normally just blooms in May. I have rarely seen these two plants bloom a second time in fall.

- If the ground is covered by acorns in the fall will be covered by snow throughout winter. This is also said about seeds on plants, for example, the more cones an evergreen tree (pine, spruce, cedar) has the more severe the winter ahead will be.

- When a persimmon seed is cut open, the white marking inside reveals the following information about the coming winter: If it's shaped like a knife, winter's winds will be biting and the season will be cold. If it's

shaped like a fork, expect a relatively average winter. If it looks like a spoon, expect to shovel plenty of snow.

- An unusually thick shell on a hickory nut promises an unusually cold winter.

- Here is one of my favourite folklores that my dad always used: If you take notice of the height of the corn cobs on their stalks at harvest time, that is the same height the snow will get to be the next winter.

- The fall folklore that I try to get all my family and friends on board with is one involving a small, fuzzy insect called the "woolly bear caterpillar." This is the rusty orange and black striped caterpillar that you only notice in the fall.

The caterpillar has 13 distinct segments made up from bristly tufts of either rusty brown or black hairs. It is black on both ends with rust-coloured segments in the middle. Sometimes

they can be mostly black or mostly rust.

If you see a caterpillar that is completely rust coloured or completely black in colour, they are not a woolly bear.

According to the legend, the wider the rusty brown section is the milder the coming winter will be. The wider the black sections are the more severe the winter will be.

So far this fall, I have yet to see a woolly bear caterpillar, so my prediction for the winter is still to come.

No matter what folklore you use to predict the coming winter or whether you actually trust the professionals, the fact remains that winter will come and winter will go just as it has since the beginning of time.

Until then, let's enjoy this beautiful fall season.

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

Obituaries

Joanne Brown



BROWN, Joanne
We are saddened to announce the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother, sister and friend, Joanne Brown (Matheson) on Saturday, September 30, 2023 in her 83rd year at the GNGH. Joanne was a loving mother to James and Shawn and sister of Ed and Nadine. Loving grandmother to Cassidy. She was

predeceased by her loving husband of over 50 years Robert (Bob), her parents and her sister Louise. Joanne was a kind, loving and generous friend to many. She was a graduate of the Mack Training School for Nurses (1962) and worked in the Operating Room at GNGH before leaving to sail the world with Bob. She worked many years for a Pharmaceutical Company and also had her own perfume shop in Niagara-on-the-Lake. She loved horses and owned several over the years. Joanne had a lovely voice and sang and played guitar professionally for a long time. She was always ready to help if needed and cheer up those saddened or distressed. A kind and loving person, she will be missed.

Thank you to her neighbours and friends at Ina Grafton for their help over these past years. In accordance with her wishes, cremation has taken place and arrangements are entrusted with Essentials Cremation and Burial Services. A Graveside Service will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Cemetery, 323 Simcoe St., Niagara-on-the-Lake on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 11 a.m. As she was a breast cancer survivor, donations to Walker Family Cancer Centre or the Lincoln County Humane Society in memory of her dear doggy friend and companion for many years "Smitty" as well as her two cats "Simon" and "Casey."

Online condolences may be shared on Joanne's tribute page found at EssentialsNiagara.com.



Christine Garrett



Christine Garrett June 11th 1937- October 1st 2023.

Christine passed away peacefully at Upper Canada Lodge on October 1st, 2023 at the age of 86. Loving wife of the late Douglas Garrett. Cherished mother and proud grandmother who will be missed daily.

Born and raised in Newfoundland, Christine had a heart of gold and loved helping others. She met Douglas in Niagara

where they spent 44 years deeply in love.

Retired from Upper Canada Lodge, Christine was so proud of her work in their kitchens as head chef. From volunteering at her grandchild's schoolyard, to participating in the Ladies Auxiliary of the local Legion, Christine was dedicated to supporting her community.

Mom and Nana will be deeply missed by her daughter Kelly Atalick, son Ronald Clarke, grandchild Dahli Clarke-Partida, and many others. She was always the life of the party and loved to sing and dance everywhere she went.

Our family is so grateful to the staff of Upper Canada Lodge and Carrie McClure for the love and kindness they provided Christine in her final years. Until Doug's passing, his smiling face and bellowing laughter filled the halls of Upper Canada Lodge during his daily visits. It brings peace knowing they are reunited now in Heaven.

Cremation has taken place and she will be taken home to Newfoundland as she wished. Donations in her memory can be made to the Alzheimer's Society of Niagara Region.



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



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