



Missing two years, her dad is 'truly one-of-a-kind' | Page 7

Native centre board members embroiled in contentious lawsuit

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A major legal battle is brewing between the board of the Niagara Regional Native Centre and board

members who were ousted in February.

The former board members of the centre are asking a Superior Court judge to dismantle the current board.

The lawsuit pits former

members – president Lacey Lewis and Wanda Griffin, Bobbi Jones Japp and Wendy Wilson – against their successors: Roxanne Buck, Audrey Clark, Fallon Farinacci, Eliana Jones, Brian MacAulay, Doug

Paget and Sean Vanderklis.

The native centre, located on Airport Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake, provides community support services for the Indigenous community. The centre also is named in the lawsuit.

The former board is represented by Julie Mouris of Ottawa legal firm Conway Baxter Wilson LLP and the new board is represented by Terrence Hill of Daniel & Partners LLP of St. Catharines. Both

lawyers decline to comment when contacted by The Lake Report.

Court documents claim the members of the new board violated the centre's

Continued on Page 4

NOTL wineries back Gates' push to end 'unfair' 6.1% tax

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Only Ontario imposes a 6.1 per cent tax on wine sales at vintners' retail stores and winery proprietor Bill Redelmeier can't understand why the levy even exists.

Redelmeier, from Southbrook Vineyards, and Jakub Lipinski, of Big Head Wines, joined Niagara MPP Wayne Gates last week to unveil plans to reintroduce a private member's bill that will end the "unfair" tax on 100 per cent Ontario VQA wine sold at winery retail stores.

"What nobody can really figure out is why only Ontario wines are charged a 6.1 per cent tax on sales through our own retail store," Redelmeier said at a news conference hosted by Gates last Thursday.

The New Democrat MPP added, "This tax only serves to harm our Ontario wines

Continued on Page 3

Carrying on a Canadian legacy

Terry Fox Run raises \$61,000 and counting for cancer research

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Terry Fox and his story have touched the lives of countless Canadians – and NOTL residents are no exception.

As one of the top fundraisers in the country per capita, Niagara-on-the-Lake's annual Terry Fox Run brings together hundreds of people from across town and beyond.

Organizer Joan King said volunteers are still tallying up the total amount raised this year by in-person donations, but as of Wednesday online contributions in Niagara-on-the-Lake were \$61,804.

Joe Pillitteri's Team Pillsy topped the donor board and raised more than \$32,700.

Meanwhile, at Simcoe Park on Sunday, Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Richard Guay completed his 39th Terry Fox Run.

Guay explained that when he first heard about the Canadian icon he was a runner and was inspired by Fox's dedication.

"It really hit me when I saw this guy with one leg," he said.

"That's it I'm in, I'm hooked for life," Guay recalled thinking.

This was the 43rd year of the Terry Fox Run and despite missing a few, Guay has amassed a large sum of money for the Terry Fox Foundation.

Continued on Page 2



Frankie Cuffaro from London, England, ran in this year's Terry Fox Run. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Lake Report honoured with eight national journalism awards

Staff
The Lake Report

The Lake Report has again been honoured with several national awards for its journalism.

The Canadian Commu-

nity Newspaper Association's annual awards were announced Friday and The Lake Report received eight, including one each in the coveted Outstanding Reporter Initiative and Best Local Civic Journalism

categories.

The paper was the only publication in Niagara Region recognized in the awards and took home the second-most number of awards in the country.

Most of the awards were

in the largest circulation categories (over 10,000), pitting The Lake Report, a small, independent publisher with a full-time news staff of three, against some of the biggest chain-owned publications in Canada.

The awards competition was for stories, photos and commentary published in 2022.

"We are really proud once again that the hard work of

Continued on Page 12



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Integrity commissioner **ends probe** of controversial \$10K exchange

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



Gary Burroughs. FILE

The controversy over a \$10,000 cash exchange between developer Benny Marotta and Coun. Gary Burroughs is over, the town says, after the municipality's integrity commissioner ended his investigation of the incident.

Ted McDermott, the town's integrity commissioner, "concluded that there are no grounds before him to warrant further investigation," Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa said in a town news release.

"He came back and said

there was nothing to investigate," Burroughs said in an interview.

McDermott reported his decision to the town at the end of May, chief administrator Marnie Cluckie told The Lake Report. She said it is confidential and cannot be released.

Cluckie said the com-

missioner's decision was brought to council at a closed session on June 20.

"There was no public report by the integrity commissioner so there was no report to bring forward publicly," she added.

"The integrity commissioner operates under a duty of confidentiality with respect to all matters," Cluckie said.

However, Burroughs told The Lake Report in an interview he learned of McDermott's decision a month ago but did not speak about it publicly until now.

Burroughs said one reason the town could not deliver the news sooner

was because both he and chief administrator Marnie Cluckie were on vacations during the summer.

"I'm not happy it took so long, but it did," he said.

He said he was sure part of the decision was to "just let it ride and nobody will think about it."

He's been pushing the town to make a statement, all the same.

"As a longtime politician, it's about my integrity," he said.

Burroughs said he's been approached by people over the last few months who have congratulated him on "being cleared."

"I never did understand what I was supposed to

have done wrong," he said.

The Niagara Regional Police decided in April not to investigate the affair further.

"Council has concluded that the matter is closed," Zalepa said in the statement.

The controversial exchange took place March 4, Burroughs said, and he's been waiting ever since then to share his side.

At that time, Marotta handed Burroughs an envelope with \$10,000 in cash inside.

The controversy was first reported by The Lake Report and at the time both men said the exchange was not political.

Marotta said it was meant to support Burroughs' 2022 municipal campaign, but the campaign had long since wrapped up.

Burroughs attempted to return the money March 5, and Marotta encouraged him to give it to his church if he could not use it for his campaign.

On March 6, he informed Cluckie, who asked Marotta to retrieve the cash.

Burroughs said he was "devastated" in the beginning at the impact to his reputation.

His family was "under great pressure" throughout the incident, he said.

People motivated by Terry and **their own** cancer stories

Continued from Front Page

This was his most successful fundraising year yet. He brought in \$4,700 and was named among the top 200 fundraisers in the country.

For the run this year, all of Guay's family came out to participate in their own way, running, cycling and walking.

Family members from the U.K. and Guelph came out to support him.

"They said if you run until you're 100 we'll run with you," he said.

Juliet Dunn helped out the Terry Fox walk in a bigger way this year, leading the pre-run warmup and singing "O Canada" before the send-off.

Dunn's life has been directly impacted by cancer, so helping out at the walk meant a lot, she said.

"I lost my sister and my husband (Peter Shea) to cancer not too long ago. He was 50, she was 57. So you know, there's all the more reason to do it and more importance behind it," Dunn



Left: The Guay family extended all the way to the U.K. Twelve members from Niagara and beyond came out to support Richard Guay and participate in the Terry Fox Run on Sunday. Right: Participants could run, walk, jog — really any way they wanted to join in on the action. JULIA SACCO/DAVE VAN DE LAAR



told The Lake Report.

Dunn recalled living in B.C. as a young woman and watching Fox on his Marathon of Hope.

"I did not realize that it was a marathon a day. I've done a marathon once and I'll probably never do it

again," she said.

"It was nice to see everybody in the community and a highlight was seeing all the marshals and all the different volunteers," she said after this year's run in NOTL.

One NOTLer for whom

Terry Fox's story really resonates is run organizer Joan King.

King's journey with Fox began with her career as a teacher, where before retiring she would lead school-wide Terry Fox walks each year.

"Then one year I came down to do the community run and there was nobody there. I think that was in 2006 or 2007. They said they needed a run organizer," King said.

"I've been doing it ever since."

King said that each year she is continually surprised by how dedicated NOTLers are to supporting Terry's goal.

"It's a beautiful feeling that the spirit is here, the generosity and the message that Terry has for everyone," she said.



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Council settles property dispute

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



Coun. Wendy Cheropita voted to settle the Gate Street dispute with owner Keith Turner while Coun. Gary Burroughs was opposed to settling. EVAN LOREE

Council has avoided a trip to the Ontario Land Tribunal by overturning a decision made by the committee of adjustment.

As a result, Keith Turner of 1939592 Ontario Inc., which owns 517 Gate St., will be permitted to build a bungalow on the lot with 40 per cent coverage instead of the 33 per cent permitted by the lot's zoning.

"The houses across the street have 40 per cent coverage as well," said Mary Lou Tanner, a planner representing the owner of 517 Gate St.

In a split decision, the committee of adjustment denied the request for more lot coverage at a meeting on July 20.

The landowner then appealed the decision to the land tribunal, which

resolves development disputes.

Paul DeMelo, a lawyer for the property owner, said the coverage was actually smaller than the 40 per cent in the application.

He said a covered porch to the rear of the property made up most of the additional lot coverage the owner was asking for.

Realistically, the proposed bungalow would cover two per cent more land than what was permit-

ted by the zoning, he said.

The committee denied the permit despite staff recommending the contrary.

"We believe the resolution is to support the staff position," Tanner told council last Tuesday night.

Coun. Maria Mavridis agreed and suggested the town settle with the property owner.

Coun. Gary Burroughs said council was in a "tough position" having to choose between the committee's

decision and staff's recommendations.

And Coun. Sandra O'Connor said she wanted more information before making a decision.

She and Burroughs voted against Mavridis' motion.

Councillors Tim Balasiuk, Wendy Cheropita, Adriana Vizzari and Erwin Wiens all voted in favour.

At the July meeting, committee of adjustment members Allan Killin and Paul Johnston voted to deny the permit.

They argued there was not sufficient justification for the owner to surpass the 33 per cent limit on lot coverage.

Killin said town bylaws force builders to set garages farther back than what was proposed by the applicant.

And Johnston argued there was no reason the owner couldn't build a two-storey house on a smaller footprint than what was proposed with the bungalow.

Wineries on board with Gates' wine tax bill

Continued from Front Page

and creates an unfair advantage to foreign winemakers."

Redelmeier noted many small wineries are not profitable and Lipinski said that because the last few years have been challenging, it would be helpful to receive some support from the government.

"Anytime I go to Toronto restaurants and try to sell our wine, they always compare us to other regions throughout the world," Lipinski said.

"It's hard when you have to explain to every single sommelier, every single table that 65 per cent of that price that you see there is taxes," he added.

Ontario wineries have not only been overlooked, but outright ignored for too long, Gates said, adding that Niagara wineries are on board with his bill.

"There's nobody saying, 'No, don't take this bill forward,'" Gates told The Lake Report.

He introduced similar bills in 2018 and 2020. Both



Jakub Lipinski, left, stands with MPP Wayne Gates and Bill Redelmeier at a news conference last week. Gates announced that he will reintroduce the bill to eliminate the 6.1 per cent basic tax on 100 per cent Ontario VQA wine sold at winery retail stores. SUPPLIED

didn't make it past the first reading.

As part of a campaign to get rid of the tax, a Deloitte Canada report earlier this year laid out the benefits of Ontario's wine industry.

Commissioned by Ontario Craft Wineries, Tourism Partnership of Niagara and Wine Growers Ontario, it concluded the industry could boost Niagara region's gross domestic product by \$8 billion over the next 25 years.

"One of the things that they highlight in that report was the 6.1 per cent unfair tax that small- and medium-

sized wineries are paying, where foreign wineries do not pay that tax," said Gates.

"Which makes absolutely no sense," he added.

The report could be the catalyst the industry needs to get the tax repealed, he said.

"I think there's a lot more pressure on the government right now to take a serious look at this unfair tax," said Gates.

He said the report was "very important for highlighting and educating a lot of people on how important and unique the role of the wine industry plays in the

Niagara economy."

Niagara produces 90 per cent of all Ontario grapes, he said, and the wine sector provides upward of 23,000 jobs.

Niagara's wine industry is also the largest in Canada.

Andrea Kaiser, Niagara-on-the-Lake's regional councillor – and a wine-maker – said removing the 6.1 per cent tax would make a huge difference to the industry and have it "explode in a positive way."

In July, Kaiser succeeding in getting Niagara regional council to unanimously support a motion to put more pressure on the government to lift the tax.

Kaiser also encouraged people and businesses to buy more VQA wines. "That would be tremendous," she said.

She'd love to see the industry better supported in Ontario, much like it is in British Columbia.

"When you support the wineries, you support the growers, because then they can afford to buy the fruit and reinvest in the land, and buy grapes," Kaiser said.

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Daycare centres needed, but staff **more urgent**, says expert

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A new child care centre in Queenston is adding a much-needed service to Niagara-on-the-Lake and its adjoining cities.

The newly-opened child care centre in Queenston, Sweet Love Childcare Centre, is one of six licensed centres in town.

"We knew that (in) Niagara-on-the-Lake, there's not many daycares, that's why we decided to open here," said Flora Duenas Lozano the centre's co-owner.

Duenas Lozano said they decided on Queenston as the location for its new centre after hearing from friends how much parents and guardians need child care support in NOTL. She said she also liked how quiet and safe the area is.

Duenas Lozano, a registered nurse and registered early childhood educator, operates the new centre with Kamal Preet at the old Laura Secord Elementary School on Walnut Street, which closed down in 2010.

She said her facility is lucky to be able to accommodate 64 children in three large classrooms. Currently, they have a little more than 30 kids registered.

Parents in the Queenston area were very happy to learn of the new space, Duenas Lozano said, since it meant they wouldn't have to worry about driving to other cities like St. Catharines or Niagara Falls for the service.



Kamal Preet, left, and Flora Duenas Lozano co-own the new Sweet Love Childcare Centre. SOMER SLOBODIAN

"This is a very good opportunity for everybody who lives here in (the) Niagara-on-the-Lake area to have something near to them," she said.

There are an estimated 10,000 kids across the region waiting for daycare by the end of 2023, said Satinder Klair, the director of child services with the Niagara Region.

Candice Penny, the executive director at Niagara Nursery School in NOTL, said in an email to The Lake Report that there are 242 kids on its waitlist.

"Parents are frustrated and stressed with how long it is taking to get a child care spot, even though they

are on multiple wait lists," she said.

Christine Lett, supervisor at Childcare Central, said there are more than 400 kids on the waitlist at the centre.

Lett recommends parents put their children on the waitlist even before they're born.

"You want to put your child on the waitlist pretty much the moment you are expecting — and even then there's still no guarantee," she said. [pull quote]

Some families who just got a spot this year were on the waitlist for about a year and a half, she said.

One of the major issues

daycare facilities in the province are dealing with is staffing.

"There's a shortage of registered early childhood educators," said Klair.

He said the region's licensed capacity is currently operating at 64 per cent rather than 100 per cent.

"So if a childcare centre could serve 100 kids, they're only serving about 64 kids. And the primary reason is around labour shortage," he said.

Niagara-on-the-Lake is doing a bit better than the region as a whole, he said, operating at 74 per cent.

"Even if we were to bring Niagara-on-the-Lakes operating capacity to 90 per cent, it would require an additional 32 registered early childhood educators and 12 educational assistants," said Klair.

Lett said Childcare Central is operating at about 80 per cent capacity with staffing problems standing in the way of it reaching full capacity.

Many people have also left the field, which makes it harder to find qualified workers, said Penny.

However, Niagara Nursery has been fortunate, she said, and is still able to operate at full capacity.

Klair said that the target from the province is to build 591 child care centres across the region that are eligible for the new 10 dollar a day daycare program — an initiative that is supposed to help lower the cost of child care for families.

He agreed that more centres are needed across the province due to its increasing population, however more centres can't run if there's no staff to run it.

"We need spaces to accommodate our growth, but then we also need staff to be able to operationalize what we have," he said.

"The shortage of workforce is just insane," he added.

He said the province has addressed this issue and committed to releasing a provincial workforce strategy this year.

"I do believe that we need a provincial wide strategy that really speaks to the wages of the sector," he said.

The job of an early childhood educator holds a lot of responsibilities for little pay, which makes it hard to retain staff, he said.

He added that students come out of a two year early childhood educator diploma program to a job that pays between \$19 and \$22 dollars an hour.

"But for that same amount of wage, you could work at a different job, potentially make much higher wages or have less responsibility," he said.

"It's about recognizing the profession from a compensation perspective," he added.

Lett said an increase of pay is important, but it also comes down to workplace conditions and environments and "being able to support staff and whatever

their needs are in the classroom."

Klair hopes there's something relating to compensation for workers in the provincial workforce strategy.

"We can't keep waiting, so when is that workforce strategy coming? Can we make a commitment to our educators that yes, your wages are going to go up?" he said.

The region has done a lot of work to strengthen the workforce at a regional level, said Klair, like putting together a recruitment table at the region and launching new programs with different institutions, such as Niagara College.

"What we hear from our recruitment table is it comes down to wages and level of responsibility that the staff are taking on," he said.

The region has also been piloting a program in Grimsby that would allow workforce sharing among the different municipalities in the region.

Instead of each centre having its own roster of supply staff on call, there would be a pool of supply staff that the centres share.

"So they get more shifts, get more hours, they get more flexibility," he said.

Whatever happens, Lett hopes the sector gets the assistance they've all been waiting for.

"As much as the province wants to include more spaces, until there's more staff, they're not going to be able to do that."

Former native centre directors ask court to **dismantle** current board

Continued from Front Page

own bylaws and the Not-for-Profit Corporations Act at a meeting Feb. 8.

That meeting was called to fill vacancies on the organization's board of directors and add a "more precise definition" of Niagara to the centre's bylaws.

The meeting followed a slew of resignations from the centre, starting in December with Karl Dockstader, the former executive director, who resigned Dec. 8.

Dockstader was walked off the property Dec. 16.

Following the resignations, the court documents say Dockstader and Vanderklis, who co-host the podcast One Dish One Mic together on 610 CKTB, "orchestrated" a plan to remove the board members from their positions.

The documents claim Buck, the former president, began colluding with the two podcasters leading up to the meeting.

None of the allegations have been proven in court.

Following his resignation, Dockstader and Vanderklis made "false and defamatory statements about the applicants on Facebook," the lawsuit claims.

At the February meeting, Buck called for the resignation of the board and the immediate appointment of new members.

The court documents say Buck's motion was improper and contravened the centre's bylaws, thereby invalidating the new board and everything it has done since February.

The suit says the four former board members should be recognized as the "only properly elected or appointed" directors and officers of the centre.

The applicants also say they were unable to speak to the validity of Buck's motion at the meeting.

One reason cited was that a staff member "started physically charging" toward Griffin and Lewis as they were attempting to make their case, the suit says.

"As the meeting became unruly, president Lewis began to fear for the safety

of herself, her fellow board directors and the (centre's) members present," the documents say.

The documents say the board stepped down "under duress."

Attendees then elected the new board, which proceeded to lock the old board members out of their email accounts.

The documents claim the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, of which the centre is a member, advised the new board to call a special meeting after the

chaotic night to fill the remainder of the board vacancies.

The applicants say the new board has not done that.

The court papers also say Lewis and the other applicants issued a letter on April 26, asking again for a meeting to be called.

The documents also say the former board members had their memberships stripped without notice.

Buck refused to comment when contacted by The Lake Report about the lawsuit.



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Left: Sgt. Donald Matthews' parents commemorated their lost son with this stained glass window at Christ Church McNab. Right: Matthews died when his Halifax bomber was shot down by a German ace. LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

MISSING IN ACTION

Sgt. Donald Matthews shot down over Germany

In both world wars, there were men killed in action or who died in service who had a connection with Niagara-on-the-Lake but for various reasons were not commemorated on either the memorial clock tower cenotaph in Old Town or the Niagara Township war memorial in Queenston. In some cases, they lived for only a brief time in Niagara and had no family here when the monuments were built. In other instances, they had lived near McNab, not then part of NOTL or Niagara Township. While their names are not read out at the ceremonies at these monuments on Remembrance Day, they too should be remembered.

Ron Dale
Special to The Lake Report

In the now-mothballed Christ Church McNab, beautiful stained-glass windows were installed in memory of two men killed in action in the Second World War.

One was erected by the parents of James Irvine (featured in our Sept. 7 edition) and the other by the parents of Donald Matthews.

Born in Brant County on Nov. 23, 1919, Donald Willis Matthews was the son of Hartley Willis and Mary Jane "Jean" Patterson.

They farmed a few different areas, including Ridgeway, before settling in Louth Township, near McNab, which is now part of Niagara-on-the-Lake. They had two daughters and Don, their youngest child.

He attended SS#1 Grantham school from 1925 to 1933 and worked on his father's farm after completing Grade 8 in 1933, fully expecting to one day inherit the family holdings.

Matthews was an active young man, playing baseball and lacrosse. He was fascinated by the stories of the Indigenous people who once lived in the area and continued to collect arrowheads found each year when the fields were ploughed.

The Second World War had been raging for almost

two years and Canada had just suffered the tragic defeat at Dieppe in August 1942 when Matthews decided to enlist. He was accepted into the Royal Canadian Air Force on Sept. 30, 1942, and his training began immediately.

Over the next seven months he was drilled in the discipline and bearing of an airman, attended Initial Training School and Elementary Flight Training School before being chosen to attend the Air Gunner School, all part of the Air Commonwealth Training Plan.

From April 5 to June 25, 1943, he trained at the Air Gunner School and was an apt student, scoring high marks in accurately firing the type of machine-guns used on bomber aircraft.

He was assessed as an "above average student" who was "keen on his work." On completion of the course, he was ready for active service and was promoted to sergeant.

On July 16, Matthews boarded a ship in Halifax and arrived in the U.K. after a fast six-day voyage. In England, he spent the next six weeks undertaking additional training as a member of a bomber aircrew.

Finally, on Sept. 4, 1943, Matthews arrived at the Middleton St. George

airbase in County Durham, home of the 428 "Ghost" Squadron of the RCAF, flying Halifax bombers on night missions.

By 1943, the Germans had developed a long-range radar known as "Freya" that would warn them well in advance of approaching bombers, enabling them to determine their flight paths.

Heavily armed night fighter aircraft mounting accurate short-range radar known as "Lichtenstein" were vectored to intercept. The fighters could then fly behind the bomber stream and shoot the bombers down with concentrated cannon fire.

At dusk on Sept. 27 the bombers of 428 Squadron took off, heading toward their target at Hannover, Germany.

The squadron was tracked by Freya radar and Lt. Josef Kraft of the German Luftwaffe, flying a Bf 110, picked up Matthews' Halifax bomber on his Lichtenstein radar.

While the top speed of the Halifax was 454 km/h, the Bf 110 could fly at 595 km/h. The rear gun turret of the Halifax had four machine-guns firing .303-inch (7.69 mm) bullets, but the Bf 110 had two 30-mm cannons and four 20-mm cannons that fire exploding shells.

The Halifax didn't stand a chance once Kraft was on its tail, even though Matthews was a well-trained and accurate air gunner.

Kraft was a skilled ace and during the war he shot down 54 other Allied planes.

Matthews' Halifax crashed into a potassium pit at Kalischacht, just southwest of Hannover. The entire crew was killed.

The resulting explosion and fire made it impossible to identify the individual remains, so the men were buried in a mass grave in nearby Ronnenberg.

After the war, the remains were transferred to another mass grave in the British Military Cemetery in Hannover.

Today, Sergeant Matthews is remembered on the stained-glass window at Christ Church, the fate of which remains up in the air. Hopefully steps will be taken to ensure that it is preserved and that Matthews will be remembered.

On the heels of The Lake Report's 53-part "Monuments Men" series, which exhaustively documented the story of every soldier commemorated on the town's two cenotaphs, Ron Dale's "Missing in Action" stories profile Niagara-on-the-Lake soldiers who died in wartime but are not listed on the town's monuments.

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Road rally raises **\$20,000** for Red Roof Retreat

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

It was a frenzied NOTL-focused scavenger hunt on four wheels.

Unsuspecting Niagara-on-the-Lake residents, visitors and business operators encountered a non-military invasion Saturday morning as nearly 100 road rally participants scurried around town trying to accumulate points while solving a series of clues — and raising about \$20,000 for Red Roof Retreat.

The first of what organizer Jon Taylor promises will be an annual affair attracted about two dozen teams of four who were given a series of 25 clues to solve.

In modern twist, they had to text photographic proof of their answers to rally volunteers, who then compiled all the data and determined the winners.

But it all had to be done in two hours, or less. Without speeding or violating any rules of the road.

Prior to takeoff, Taylor, a member of Red Roof's board, also emphasized, "This is all fun, not serious, so enjoy yourselves."



Participants check in and eye the trophies, right, for the top three finishers of the inaugural road rally scavenger hunt fundraiser for Red Roof Retreat. KEVIN MACLEAN

The real winner was Red Roof.

"We are truly grateful for Jon's concept for this fundraiser," said Steffanie Bjorgan, founder and executive director of Red Roof.

"It definitely puts the fun in FUNdraising and is such a unique way to bring people from the community together for a great cause."

The rally participants took fun to heart, whether it meant dancing with a

stranger on Queen Street, searching for a genuine Canadian one-dollar bill or a fire hall that serves food in St. Davids or performing on a stage in Old Town near the Prince of Wales hotel.

There also was the blindfolded lipstick application session to earn a whopping 10 points. It left a few participants with lipstick everywhere except their collar, but 10 points richer.

Some of the challenges proved, uh, challenging — especially getting a photo of two team members with a police officer (and two bonus points if you were IN their police car). After all, how often is a police car spotted in Niagara-on-the-Lake?

Apparently only one team solved that clue — it helps that one of the team members has a neighbour who is a cop.

We also got some quizzical looks amid the Saturday breakfast blitz at the Stagecoach restaurant when, to solve a clue, we tried to place a rush order for a sandwich. We settled for two pieces of bread, untoasted. Mission accomplished

And we're not sure how the gas stations in town felt about everyone topping up with exactly \$1 in gas, no more, no less.

Did you know there are a lot of Porsches in town? One clue demanded a team member get a photo sitting in the front seat of one. Bonus points if you found a Ferrari. (No one did.)

The top team of clue-solvers on the day was comprised of Jason Day, Lyle Hall, Ben Taylor and Paul Weiss.

They weren't perfect but close and finished a mere two points ahead of runners-up Maria and Brodie Townley, Stephen Warboys and his daughter Chantal Warboys-Brown.

Third was the team of Greg and Karen Berti and Gina and Andy Vanderhoeven.

Tickets for a raffle for

court-side seats to a Toronto Raptors home game attracted a lot of attention from participants. The Lake Report's Megan Vanderlee, a big Raptors fan, was the lucky winner.

Taylor said he was surprised that the teams were able to solve so many clues within the two-hour limit.

And he's already looking ahead.

"We are delighted with our inaugural event thanks to our sponsors, participants and volunteers," he told The Lake Report.

"Next year will be even bigger and better. We already have folks trying to sign up for next year."

Prior to the rally and again afterward, Bjorgan thanked the crowd for stepping up to help the charitable organization.

Red Roof provides recreational and respite services to children and young adults with special needs.

She noted the organization relies on the generosity of donors to help it provide programs at its two locations in NOTL: The Ranch, an 11-acre site on Concession 6, and Kevan's House on Concession 2.

Nearby residents want **better access** to future subdivision

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A new subdivision being proposed in St. Davids may only have one way in for vehicles — and that's a big concern for some of its neighbours.

At a Niagara-on-the-Lake council meeting on Tuesday night, St. Davids resident Martin Quick and a few of his neighbours said a new subdivision in their community should have an additional access point.

Developer Gatta Homes Inc. proposes to extend Kenmir Avenue into a 28-lot subdivision ending in a cul-de-sac.

If built, the future residents will have one vehicular access point to the subdivision from the intersection of Kenmir and Hickory avenues.



Coun. Adriana Vizzari asks a couple of questions of development by Gatta Homes, including one about park capacities in the neighbourhood. EVAN LOREE

"That makes absolutely no sense at all," Quick said of the access plan.

Quick said this is a "major development" and would be subject to the coming and going of massive construction vehicles.

He said these vehicles would be better serviced if they could enter the development directly from Tanbark Road rather than

having to drive all the way around the site and enter through Kenmir Avenue.

Quick said "maybe one house is going to be replaced" if the developer decides to build an access point from Tanbark Road.

He was also concerned with the removal of black walnut trees from the site.

"Can any of these absolutely magnificent trees be

preserved?" he asked.

If not, Quick said he wants to see mature trees planted in their place.

An arborist's report provided with the developer's application shows 39 of 57 trees on the site are slated for removal.

Also sharing Quick's concerns was Darryl Byrne, who said there is a "topology issue" with Kenmir Avenue.

The St. Davids resident said the street is hilly and he worried how it would impact existing issues such as vehicular access and snow removal if the developer moves forward with one entrance for vehicles.

"This is already a busy street," resident Hao Zeng said.

Zeng said the road was made more narrow by the construction vehicles frequenting it.

He said Kenmir already has over 70 homes on it, and the development, if approved, would raise the number of homes to over 100.

For him, this is a safety concern — especially for children on their way to and from school.

And Quick said there should be no work after 6 p.m. to help keep the neighbourhood quiet.

He also argued the town should enforce bylaws to make sure contractors are "wearing proper safety gear" at all times.

Tanbark Road resident Lloyd Oliver said some lots were too small, and worried the proposed houses would cast long shadows on his home.

"We back onto the Kenmir extension, where the lots behind us are about 70 feet (21.3 metres) in depth,"

he said.

Oliver said once the back porch proposed for the future houses is built, his future neighbours could be eight feet away from his fence.

"Moving out here to St. Davids, I didn't think I'd ever have that issue," he said.

Coun. Gary Burroughs asked if the proposed houses were going to be a "little less expensive."

"It would be nice for our community if we could actually have affordable — so called — affordable housing," he added.

This elicited a laugh, as Gatta Homes has a reputation for building expensive luxury homes.

Kekoo Gatta, the developer's CEO, said the smaller lots should help keep the future houses in a "lower price range."

An advertisement for "Junk Food Pairing" by Konzelmann Estate Winery. The background shows a wooden board with various snacks like popcorn, chips, and nuts. The text reads: "JUNK FOOD PAIRING A SOPHISTICATED TAKE ON CLASSIC SNACK FOODS." Below this is the website "Visit konzelmann.ca for details." The Konzelmann Estate Winery logo is in the bottom right corner, featuring a circular seal with the name "KONZELMANN" and "ESTATE WINERY" around the perimeter.

Newark Neighbours' food drive **needs donations**

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Newark Neighbours' porch pick-up food drive is fast approaching and more donations are needed.

"Right now, we're a bit short," Newark Neighbours board chair Cindy Grant said this week.

She's hoping that changes before the food drive starts Saturday. It runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Members of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club, NOTL Kinsmen Club and St. Davids Lions Club are collaborating with Newark to make the pick-ups.

Thanksgiving items like stuffing mix, canned cranberry sauce, canned gravy and apple or cranberry juice are needed, Grant said.

They're also looking for applesauce, gravy mix and a variety of canned items like green beans, corn, peas and fruit.

Donations will be packaged into Thanksgiving hampers for clients of Newark Neighbours.

The food bank is seeing unprecedented numbers with 44 new families this year alone, Grant said.

There are now 109 families registered at the food bank, which equals nearly 220 individuals, she said.

"This is the highest we've had," said Grant.

She's hoping between now and Saturday more people

register to donate to the food drive, since participation is a bit lower than last year.

Grant urges anyone interested in registering their address for Saturday to call 905-468-7498 or email newarkneighbours1@gmail.com up until the morning of the food drive.

If anyone misses the pick-up, Grant said they can still drop off donations next week at the food bank at 1534 Niagara Stone Rd. in Virgil.

Missing two years, her dad is **'truly one-of-a-kind'**

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Mikayla Werner is honouring her dad in the best way she knows how — with a memorial bench at one of his favourite spots.

"I grew up going for hikes with my dad and the dogs at the Niagara Glen. (It) just kind of encompasses him as a person," she said.

Darren Werner vanished two years ago on Sept. 16, 2021. Since then, there's been little discovered about his disappearance.

Niagara Regional Police said in a news release on Sept. 15 that they're looking at his disappearance as an "open missing person investigation with suspicious circumstances."

"It's been a quick two years. Super painful and confusing, but I just really wanted to do something. I felt like I needed to do



Mikayla Werner, left, and her dad Darren Werner. SUPPLIED

something for him," said Mikayla Werner.

Placing a bench at one of their favourite spots seemed like a "no-brainer," she said, since it's where they'd

spend upward of three hours hiking sometimes.

By starting a GoFundMe, she's hoping she can make it a reality.

She needs to raise \$4,000

to have the bench installed along with a plaque.

"I'm hoping to reach all those people within the Niagara community and beyond that my dad had an impact on or left an imprint on (in) their lives in a positive way," she said.

The bench will be a way for her family, and those who know her dad, to visit and honour his memory, she said.

She noted her dad loves fitness, his dogs and anything to do with the outdoors.

She said he'd go everywhere with his German shepherd, Bear.

It's hard to put into words the type of person he is, she said, because he's "truly a one-of-a-kind man."

"I think that anybody that you talk to would be like, he's such a character. He always knew how to make people laugh."

Donations can be made at <https://gofund.me/558bb23d>.

Failed part blamed for hydro outage in Old Town

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A major power outage affecting about 650 homes and businesses in Old Town was repaired by Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro in just under three hours last Thursday morning.

Hydro president Tim Curtis told The Lake Report that a part failed in a transformer on John Street West near Mississauga.

The small, aging part, an elbow where the electrical



Gabriel Jackson was one of four linemen working to restore power Thursday morning. EVAN LOREE

lines enter the box, caused the outage.

Those parts usually last about 40 years, he said.

Curtis said the outage began at around 7:10 a.m.

and hydro staff had the transformer repaired by just before 10 a.m.

When the crew arrived on-site, the box was smoking.

"People should not be go-

ing near the equipment" in such a situation, he said.

The cost of replacing a whole hydro box can run as high as \$20,000 but the elbow pieces are pretty affordable, Curtis said.

The biggest costs are time and labour.

Power lines run into the boxes from underground and Curtis said such lines are more reliable than overhead wires, but harder to fix when they fail.

"When there is an outage, it tends to be a bit bigger and longer," he said.

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Contributed by Patty Garriock
 "The best way to cheer yourself is to try to cheer someone else up."
 - Mark Twain

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Icewine fest a fun time



From left, Karen Hatch, Betty Knight, Carol Timmins, Jeannie Manning and Melanie Chittenden. The volunteers helped set up this year's Icewine Cocktail Party fundraiser for the NOTL Rotary Club. LOUISE JONES

Editorial

Communities need **quality** journalism

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

It has been a sad week for Canadian journalism.

The bad news started quietly Sept. 12 with word the Glengarry News, a 131-year-old family-owned newspaper in Alexandria, Ont., north of Cornwall, was closing.

Then, three days later, Metroland, a sister company of the Toronto Star, said it was shutting all 71 of its weekly community print publications, including several across Niagara.

Consolidation in the print media isn't new and Metroland's crash was not totally unexpected but it was shocking that so many papers were simply shuttered and converted to online-only publications, with just a fraction of the journalists left behind to produce the work.

This not only costs people jobs and livelihoods, it leaves a gaping hole that likely will never be filled in many towns.

It's easy to shrug "who cares?" and suggest it's no big deal, but the reality is that people need and want to know about their communities, to connect with

the people and organizations near where they live.

Without reliable, professional news media, many communities will be left with only online clickbait-driven social alternatives.

Even if some new wave or old-school publications successfully convert to being solely digital, without enough reporters to dig, interview, research and bring balance and perspective, you could find mostly a regurgitation of one-sided institutional news releases, with no critical assessment, turning web platforms into public relations tools for those in power.

In fact, if you look closely, that is already happening on many news sites.

If you accept the notion that news organizations are an important part of the checks and balances on society's power structure, then many communities will not have that. Don't let NOTL be among them.

Given the closings, it feels a bit odd to publish the humble brag story on this week's front page, telling readers about the eight national journalism awards our wee paper just received from the Canadian Community Newspaper Association.

Notably, some of those

awards involved keeping an eye on those in power in society. It's an integral part of the job.

The good news in Canadian journalism is that in this corner of Niagara, two publications are writing about the community. While we touch on some of the same topics, there are distinct differences in the approach and the types of stories each covers.

In the industry, it's referred to as hard news vs. soft news, and The Lake Report definitely takes a more hard news approach, along with a generous helping of softer, community and human interest stories.

Does Niagara-on-the-Lake need two weekly print publications? No, and yes. No, because, realistically, it is too small an advertising market to economically support two papers forever.

But yes, because having multiple voices and perspectives on issues in the community is healthy.

The Lake Report is healthy, growing and trying to do good, effective, compelling, relevant journalism. You, our readers, keep telling us how much you appreciate what we do. Many even back that up with personal donations to

show their support.

But to succeed long-term means more growth is essential and inevitably that will lead to market consolidation – one paper. Plus some form of online publication.

It's our belief that The Lake Report and our website niagaranow.com will survive and thrive. No disrespect to any other media organizations, but we feel the product we offer readers is what you want and need. It's not perfect and we're always trying to be better.

To do so is eventually going to require even more commitment from the community and readers.

Barring some new innovations, readers – here and elsewhere – will some day have to decide how important community news is to them.

And that will mean digging into your wallet to pay for it. Not a lot, maybe a few pennies a day to ensure there is someone here to keep an eye on the community's interests and bring your stories to the world.

It's a small investment that will pay huge dividends – and the community will be the ultimate beneficiary. editor@niagaranow.com



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Letter of the Week

Would King St. apartments be affordable housing or vacation rentals?

Dear editor:

I attended the virtual town meeting of Sept. 12, regarding the King Street proposal for an apartment building.

I heard the applicant's representative answer a question regarding the nature of the building. He said the landowner would "condominiumize" the building, but would own all the units. That raised a number of concerns and the need to question the transparency of the applicant's actions.

The developer has been promoting this project as "intensification" and "affordable housing." Representatives have quoted various planning documents and have noted the Ontario government's push for intensification in the form of affordable rental



A 3D rendering of the three-storey condominium proposed on King Street. SUPPLIED

properties and the rewards or penalties for municipalities included in the legislation.

The town should definitely consider applications for appropriate and affordable housing.

But is this the case here? If this developer was transparent and sincere, the company likely would not have purchased a property zoned R1 and then submit-

ted amendment applications, nor would it be considering such a large building on a small property, to provide owner-occupied or long-term rental residences.

Here are some of the concerns:

Will this truly be residential, inhabited by owners or renters who call it home or is it going to become an unofficial executive rental, seasonal rental or vacation rental?

Its current layout with a lobby and an office, as well as the name on the building elevation drawing "King Suites," has one questioning the target market and how that would meet the goals of residential intensification.

The property is too small for 17 units. The applicant is asking for a number of amendments and provisions in order to fit the building into this location. That,

alone, indicates the need for serious consideration.

The building will not be fronting a road, but rather "hidden," which is not ideal for residents. There are no amenities shown in the plans, such as lockers, a meeting room, a gym, adequate bicycle parking, etc.

There is no "backyard" for the resident families and pets to enjoy. There does not appear to be adequate visitor or contractor parking, nor a place for deliveries or passenger pickup.

King Street is a local road that is not intended for the increased vehicle traffic expected for the number of residents, their visitors, deliveries and so on.

It is a narrow street where visitor parking is not easily accommodated and parked cars blocking one lane of

traffic would become a safety issue for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians.

Should this building be approved, I would hope the town can enforce rules for a condominium and require renters to be for one year or more.

I also hope that the condo board will not be made up of only the applicant and his colleagues.

A number of changes should be made to ensure a more appropriate condominium building in this location. However, the best solution would be for this applicant to seek a larger property on a more major road and with adjacent public lands, as is suggested for apartment buildings in Ontario.

Paula Ghosh
NOTL

NOTLers ... Why not?

Dear editor:

I would appreciate the opportunity to rebut Dolores Hindle-Derbyshire's opinion that "NOTLers" is not an appropriate nickname for those who live in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

I do so with appreciation that The Lake Report saw fit to publish her controversial opinion, in your Sept. 7 edition.

Her concern seemed to be multifaceted between sanity for those born here and the use of the term by newcomers.

I would bring to her attention the publication "Caught Between the Walls" by NOTL resident Sharon Frayne, page 9.

It is a publication of documented stories of Niagara-on-the-Lake outlining historical occurrences during the early years of NOTL.

She reminds us that NOTL was originally Butlersburg, then Newark, and then Niagara, until it finally became Niagara-on-the-Lake. And many locals have affectionately referred to themselves as "NOTLers."

Would your letter writer also take offence to residents either born in or emigrated to Canada referring



Writer Ernie Bjornski says NOTLers is a perfectly fine term for people who live in Niagara-on-the-Lake. FILE

to themselves as "Canadians" or those in Toronto using "Torontonians" or, worse yet, if they added an "er" after London and called them "Londoners"?

Enough said.

Ernie Bjornski
NOTL

A technological tale of then and now

Dear editor:

After reading Dr. William Brown's column last week ("Artificial intelligence plays a burgeoning role in health care," Sept. 7), it made me think back on simpler times.

Only those who have seen the passage of 80 years or more will recall the time when a modern home, unlike today, had only two electronic devices: a telephone and a radio.

Before 1950, it was common practice to immediately run to a ringing phone because that was usually an important signal.

In large families, jockey-

ing for position to reach the only receiver in the house was often accompanied by cries of: "It's for me! It's for me! It's for me!"

Isn't it surprising that the dozens of phones now owned by a single household can be answered in a car, theatre, bathtub or public washroom, on the subway or at the top of Everest?

We had none of that in "the good old days."

A phone call was always welcome and radio easily filled our imaginations with vivid images of "The Lone Ranger and Silver" or "Jack Benny."



Later, when TV arrived to fill our leisure hours, a young boy was asked if he preferred radio or TV. His reply, "I like radio. The pictures are better!"

There's been tremendous "progress" since those ancient times. We now have access to millions of pic-

tures, videos, opinions, talking heads and live images of murder and mayhem.

Some call this "information overload," but we're always demanding more. Perhaps AI will give us exactly what we deserve.

George Dunbar
Toronto

Indoor pool group needs a reality check

Dear editor:

According to a recent poll released by Mental Health Research Canada, 51 per cent of Canadians said inflation was having a negative impact on their mental health; 24 per cent have gone into debt because of inflation; 23 per cent are having difficulty making their rent or mortgage payments; and 37 per cent are struggling to feed them-

selves or their families.

In the midst of this dire financial climate, we have a group in Niagara-on-the-Lake advocating for a new indoor pool facility.

I truly believe this group needs a reality check.

According to a town study in 2018, a new indoor pool could cost \$6 million to \$12 million, excluding annual maintenance costs.

The reconstruction costs

for our existing St. David' pool were apparently estimated at \$5 million in 2020 and this year our residential property taxes increased about 8 per cent.

Using the example of Saugeen Shores, this group is also suggesting that this pool may not affect our local taxes and could be financed by using development charges and a legacy reserve fund.

They must be dreaming in

technicolour.

However, the most outrageous and disturbing comment from one of the committee members sums up their position: "Cost be damned, I'd like to see a pool before we're dead."

If that is truly their attitude, this group could finance this pool facility with their own resources.

Buddy Andres
NOTL



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NOTL's **Second Empire** homes have French roots



ARCHITEXT

Brian Marshall
Columnist

Over the past few weeks, we have explored a number of 19th-century architectural styles and visited local examples.

From Georgian to Gothic Revival and including the Eclectics, these styles all had one thing in common: a British origin.

I suppose this comes as no surprise, given that Britain was arguably the pre-eminent global “superpower” at that time.

It had embraced the Industrial Revolution’s ethos of innovation early while its colonies and enterprises spanned the globe generating the wealth that underwrote a creative intelligentsia.

In short, it was a hot-bed of technological and cultural advancements (albeit the latter filtered through English “sensibilities”) and all other nations drew upon it.

On this side of the Atlantic, the fledgling United States remained heavily dependent on the influx and influence of Britain’s technological and cultural innovations.

Indeed, it was common during the 19th and early 20th centuries that the scions of successful American families were sent to Europe (particularly to England) as a “finishing school” to learn and, more importantly, establish relationships that might augment this transfer of knowledge and “higher” culture.

While north of the border, the population of the land that would become Canada was definitively Anglo-centric and thus was predisposed to accept any all things British.

That said, the growing economic power and



The Bogardus-Laughton House, set well back from Lakeshore Road in McNab, is one example of an as-built Second Empire house in NOTL. BRIAN MARSHALL

influence of the United States in North America, embodied by ever-growing wealth concentrated in the hands of successful “entrepreneurs,” had a profound impact after 1850 on the built architecture of Niagara.

And, while “all things British” might have been the standard of the century, not every popular architectural style of the period originated in Britain but, these styles still required English endorsement to take wing.

France in 1852, after decades of economic chaos that followed the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte, had declared a new Second Empire under the rule of Louis Napoleon (Napoleon III) who, together with Empress Eugenie, created a sparkling court that drove a new economic prosperity.

Almost immediately Napoleon III embarked on an aggressive program of construction focused on rebuilding Paris.

It was a city that a social reformer of the period described as “an immense workshop of putrefaction, where misery, pestilence and sickness work in concert, where sunlight and air rarely penetrate. Paris

is a terrible place where plants shrivel and perish, and where, of seven small infants, four die during the course of the year.”

Slums, many of which dated to the Dark Ages, were razed. Modern sewers and municipal water systems were introduced. Neighbourhoods were joined by wide boulevards and sidewalks that not only allowed the penetration of light and air down to street level but, also facilitated the flow of traffic.

Buoyed by the economic good times and positive public sentiment, the new emperor commissioned additions to the Louvre and architects responded with a new style.

Drawing inspiration and elements from French historic precedents spanning over two centuries, the early designs in this new style were large buildings that stood free whenever possible.

Typically, they were square or nearly square with an interior floor plan with rooms arranged axially while the exterior displayed a profusion of classic details.

Most distinctively, the roof style drew upon the work of the late 15th-

century French architect Francois Mansard, with a two-slope hipped design that was commonly pierced on the lower slope by dormer windows possessing decorated surrounds (a roof style that still bears his name).

It wasn’t too long before the new style, coined Second Empire, had jumped over the English Channel where it enjoyed a heady popularity. Brief though this British craze was, its peak attracted the attention of American architects, who imported it into the United States.

On this side of the ocean, the Second Empire style was not seen as revival architecture, but as a new modern avant-garde expression reflecting the political and aesthetic attitudes in post-Civil War America.

During the last two decades of the 19th century, the Second Empire style was likely the most popular architecture in the United States. In fact, so many public buildings were constructed in the style during the presidential tenure of Ulysses S. Grant, it was commonly referred to as the President Grant style.

Perhaps in part due to its immense popularity state-side, Canadians were far more reticent to embrace a style that was perceived to be American. Here, the British-derived Gothic Revival continued to reign supreme.

However, while the Second Empire style might not have been every Canadian’s cup of tea, it certainly had its adherents.

Here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Frederick Date mortgaged his house at 240 Centre St. to renovate the hotel he owned at the corner of King and Queen streets (later renamed the Prince of Wales) in the Second Empire style.

During the same period, H.L. Lansing completed a complete renovation of the Regency house on the property he called Woodlawn. This undertaking included remodelling in the Second Empire style and embraced the de rigueur mansard roof, which can still be seen on the house in the grounds of today’s Randwood.

In fact, the majority of NOTL’s Second Empire examples are the result of renovations. However, there are a few that were actually built in the style.

In McNab, the gracious Bogardus-Laughton House, sits about a thousand feet back from Lakeshore Road.

Circa 1866, Cornelius Bogardus built a new house in the Second Empire style and its mansard roof displays a typical two-part pitch and the lower portion is set with the stylistic de rigueur dormers.

A gorgeous bell-cast roofed verandah extends the full width of the house facade, displaying decorative elements of the period with trefoil cut-outs, ornate scroll brackets under the eaves and fan brackets between turned posts and span supports.

The original French door openings flank each side of the main entry and the bays are ranked. It’s a beautiful example.

Two other examples, albeit somewhat less decorated, can be found in the circa 1890 home at 387 Scott St. and the circa 1880 dwelling at 911 Lakeshore Rd.

Watch for the mansard roof. It’s a tell-tale indicator of the Second Empire.

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



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A sign near Crossroads Public School warns drivers that a speed camera is soon to be installed. SOMER SLOBODIAN

Speed camera near Virgil school is just a **cash grab**

Dear editor:
You may have noticed a new sign on Niagara Stone Road near Crossroads Public School in Virgil. It says, "Municipal speed camera coming soon."
The road is a regional jurisdiction and the speed cameras are part of a region-wide traffic safety plan called the Vision Zero Road Safety Program.
If you are a certain age you will remember a project launched in 1994 by Premier Bob Rae's provincial NDP government. It had vans with speed cameras on the 400-series highways.
Many people vehemently opposed them and it became a campaign issue that led to the defeat of

the NDP and the election of Mike Harris as premier in 1995.
Some other municipalities have introduced speed cameras and reconsidered the idea after the objections from the community.
It is considered by some people to be a money grab by municipalities.
During this period of trying to discuss tourism and attract more visitors to our community, our leaders are providing another argument for people not coming back if they get a speeding ticket in the mail.
What evidence is there of the need for this extraordinary initiative?

Derek Insley
Glendale

Over-tourism, development could **hurt NOTL**

Dear editor:
Niagara-on-the-Lake's Old Town spreads right along the shores of Lake Ontario to the mouth of the Niagara River.
Five "villages" – Old Town, Queenston, St. Davids, Virgil and Glendale – comprise NOTL and sit among the fertile farmland, vineyards, historical sites, nature trails, parks and waterways that have made this corner of our province into a visitor attraction.
The communities have gone through growth spurts and there has much controversy and divisiveness among residents, town council and developers.
Today we are on the cusp of more changes that continue to alarm the community.
Although I share many of the concerns expressed by residents who wish to protect the Old Town, I recognize that we must come together and engage in a productive, positive dialogue with hard facts and figures at hand, rather than simple visionary aspirations.
I'd like to present some

facts that I believe have not been part of this discourse so far.
Over-tourism has destroyed some of the most precious locations worldwide to the extent that entire communities have left town and once desirable attractions are left in shambles. What lessons can we learn from these monumental failures?
What are our community's elected officials going to do before there is too much traffic, too much garbage and too much damage to the environment?
The most appealing cities and towns today (those that visitors wish to explore) are one that retain a real sense of community.
They are real towns, where real people live and shop, learn and play.
In other words, a word of caution to builders and developers: Do you want to invest in NOTL?
Then continue to make it a desirable community where young families, older people and singles live. Give priority to residential services, retail, medical and the arts for the community in order to

maintain NOTL's charm and beauty for visitors.
To the residents wishing to protect the town, I would say that residential is always desirable over commercial. Having more people live in our community will enhance and nurture our community.
Single dwellings, low residential, schools, shops for locals, theatres, sports centres: We need more of these in order to grow a community that could become an urban example to others.
We do not want a quaint historical replica of the Niagara Falls visitors strip. Building more hotels and providing more ice cream and souvenirs shops is so yesterday and so deeply destined to fail in the long run.
Let's work on attracting more residential and making NOTL with its distinct communities a place where people want to live.
The Shaw Festival, the vineyards and wineries, the trails, the restaurants will continue to attract visitors if we have a healthy and thriving local community.

Tourism as we know it must evolve and change. Please watch "The Last Tourist," a film released last year that can help you really understand how over-tourism has failed.
I would urge our elected officials and developers to assess how many existing hotel and B&B rooms are already available in NOTL. Such data should be made available to residents.
How many hotels, ice cream parlours and souvenir shops are too many in NOTL? And what will it take for visitors to become disenchanted with Niagara-on-the-Lake and move on to the next best thing?
Becoming a ghost town is the last thing anyone should want, including the developers. Growing our community in a wise and well-planned fashion should be our common goal.
We can work together in maintaining and growing our community while protecting our economic interests.
Let's start the dialogue.
Lydia Madonia
Virgil

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NEWS

Page 10 February 18, 2022 NEWS

WALK THROUGH NOTL EXPLORES BLACK HISTORY

HOW AND CAPTION BY JILL TROYER PHOTOGRAPHY BY COLLEEN WOODS HISTORICAL HOUSES COURTESY NOTL MUSEUM

Continued from Front Page

Go to the lake calendar to find the lake and contact the lake keeper to explore the history. The lake is located at 101 East Line and West Street in the city of Niagara Falls. The lake also has a small boat dock with a small boat for rent. The lake is open to the public and is a great place to enjoy the outdoors. For more information on Black history in NOTL, visit notl.org.

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Some of The Lake Report's national awards included Best Historical Story (Jill Troyer and Don Reynolds), Best Local Civic Journalism (Somer Slobodian), Outstanding Reporter Initiative (Evan Saunders)

Lake Report wins prestigious awards for best

Continued from Front Page

our reporters has been recognized by our peers from across Canada," said Richard Harley, the editor-in-chief and founder of the paper.

"None of this would happen, of course, without the people of our community, who let us into their lives to tell their stories and share them with the world," he said.

As well, "without the advertisers who support us week in and week out, and the readers who patronize those advertisers and look to The Lake Report for comprehensive news about Niagara-on-the-Lake, we would not be able to do what we do."

With the eight new awards The Lake Report has now won 69 provincial and national awards since 2020, when the paper first started entering industry competitions.

This year's Lake Report winners are:

- Reporter **Somer Slobodian**, first place, (10,000 and over circulation), Best Local Civic Journalism, for a series of detailed stories about 51-year-old seasonal farm-worker Ceto Reid, who was badly hurt when he was hit by a car last October.

He was returning from a laundromat in St. Catharines at the time, carrying his laundry while riding his bicycle back to P.G. Enns Farms in Niagara-on-the-Lake. He was due to return home to Jamaica the day after he was struck.

Slobodian's entry also included the results of her investigation into the confusing hodge-podge of rules around something as basic as the laundry facilities that are supposed to be available to seasonal farm-workers.

Her investigation, published last November, showed the federal and provincial policies about laundry facilities differ and that the agency handling inspections, Niagara's public health department, follows Ontario's rules, which are less stringent.

The judges in the competition said, "The Lake Report covered an impressive number of civic issues, all of which were worthy of the award."

"However, what set this issue out was the comprehensiveness and the willingness to keep on the story. It is also truly impressive to see a newspaper champion the cause of members of the community who otherwise may not have a voice."

Slobodian and managing editor **Kevin MacLean** also earned a third-place award for Excellence in Rural Reporting (all circulation classes) for her stories about Reid and her investigation.

The award included MacLean's Dec. 8 editorial "Do the right thing for seasonal workers," which praised the farming community for the important role it plays in our lives, but highlighted the huge power imbalance between farm bosses and seasonal workers, who return to Canada year after year but have few rights on a wide swath of issues.

The editorial stated, "The fact (Reid) had to ride his bike some eight kilometres, each way, to find adequate laundry facilities in a very simple way illustrates how the plight seasonal workers face is an afterthought."

The judges said, "In the farm rich area of southern Ontario, migrant workers are essential to the rural areas that grow food for sale across the country."

"However, they are often out of sight and out of mind, but with a pair of stories and editorial, The Lake Report successfully educates readers on the

struggles migrant farm workers face and provide information that could lead to improved work conditions for such workers."

MacLean's "Do the right thing for seasonal workers" editorial also received a second-place award in the Best National Editorial category (10,000 and over circulation).

Former reporter Evan Saunders won a second-place award (all circulation classes) for two his work on two major investigations: a maskless, "pod" school that opened in Virgil during the pandemic and for "Hotels-on-the-Lake," an in-depth look at how short-term rentals turned housing into a commodity and quickly took over a large number of NOTL homes.

The pod school series began in January 2022 and took readers inside the school, which was flouting pandemic rules and guidelines. That led to a court case and a judge ordered the school shut down.

The competition judges said, "Kudos to this reporter for the initiative to report on this situation and follow it to its natural end."

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The Lake Report Vol. 6, Issue 45 Serving all five communities of Niagara-on-the-Lake November 10, 2022

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Southbrook steps back in time to create one of its most popular wines

Investigation: A confusing hodge-podge of laundry rules for farmworkers

By the numbers: How Zalepa scored a dominant election victory

Peninsula Flooring Ltd.
Lest We Forget

The Lake Report Vol. 6, Issue 4

Maskless 'pod' school
As many as 60 unmasked students and volunteers gathered for unregulated classes. Ontario, regional and local health officials are investigating.

Old Town gateway design moving to tender

Residents want traffic roundabout around St. David's

Indoor hockey rink keeps AAA skater on the ice

Riverbark returns with exhibition on

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Figure skater has her own rink Page 13

Alternative Learning Alliance in Virgil, EVAN SAUNDERS

Virgil Skating Club opens in Virgil, EVAN SAUNDERS

Virgil Skating Club opens in Virgil, EVAN SAUNDERS

Virgil Skating Club opens in Virgil, EVAN SAUNDERS

Page 6 December 6, 2022

The Lake Report OPINION

TLR

Editor-in-Chief: Richard Harley
Managing Editor: Kevin MacLean
Design & Layout: Richard Harley
Advertising: Megan VanDerLan
Contributors: Evan Saunders, Jill Troyer, Steve Harlicker, Evan Lewis, Tim Taylor, Andrew Young, Denise Assonon, Brittany Gerber, Linda Fritz, Elizabeth Mason, Dr. William Brown, Brian Marshall, Kelly Rowan, NOTL Museum, Kyle Simons, Gail Kendall, Patty Garrison, Bill Anderson, Steve Harlicker, Ross Robinson, Penny-Lynn Coburn, Dana Van de Laar, Janice White and many more members of the NOTL community.

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

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 43
Region active cases: 542
Region deaths: 661
Region total cases: 48,948

Do the right thing for seasonal workers

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

It is so easy for the employers to specify up when they feel they have to act. It is not easy for the workers to specify up when they feel they have to act. It is not easy for the workers to specify up when they feel they have to act. It is not easy for the workers to specify up when they feel they have to act.

Contributed by Patty Garrison

"Optimism is a happiness magnet. If you stay positive, good things and good people will be drawn to you." - Mary Lou Retton

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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Page 6 January 27, 2022

The Lake Report OPINION

TLR

Editor-in-Chief: Richard Harley
Managing Editor: Kevin MacLean
Design & Layout: Richard Harley
Advertising: Rob Lamont, Lisa Jeffrey, Megan VanDerLan
Contributors: Evan Saunders, Jessica Marshall, Jill Troyer, Tim Taylor, Denise Assonon, Linda Fritz, Elizabeth Mason, Dr. William Brown, Brian Marshall, NOTL Museum, Kyle Simons, Gail Kendall, Steve Harlicker, Ross Robinson, Penny-Lynn Coburn, Dana Van de Laar, Janice White and many more members of the NOTL community.

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

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases: 146
Region active cases: 3,585
Region total cases: 30,994
Region resolved cases: 26,539

Sly as a fox

Richard Harley
Editor in Chief

It is shocking to learn of an unexplained grave yard in a cemetery. It is shocking to learn of an unexplained grave yard in a cemetery. It is shocking to learn of an unexplained grave yard in a cemetery.

Close maskless school now

Richard Harley
Editor in Chief

It is shocking to learn of an unexplained grave yard in a cemetery. It is shocking to learn of an unexplained grave yard in a cemetery. It is shocking to learn of an unexplained grave yard in a cemetery.

Contributed by Patty Garrison

"Optimism is a happiness magnet. If you stay positive, good things and good people will be drawn to you." - Mary Lou Retton

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RIDDLE ME THIS

This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: HAVING A BALL

It can be any small device, or the ball placed in beer bottles to help release nitrogen.

Last issue:
Category: PEARLS OF WISDOM

Clue: Nacre is another name for this iridescent substance.

Answer: What is mother-of-pearl?
Answered first by: Bill Hamilton

Also answered correctly (in order) by:
Claudia Grimwood, Jane Morris, Jesse Agnew, Catherine Clarke, Pam Dowling, Sylvia Wiens, Jim Dandy, Marjory Walker-Barone, Gail Benjafield, Wade Durling, Nancy Rocca, Margaret Garaughty, Rob Hutchison, Lynda Collet, Debra Jacobs, Sheila Meloche, Bob Wheatley, Elaine Landray, Katie Reimer, Susan Maxwell

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

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Saunders) and Best National and Best Local editorials (Kevin MacLean and Richard Harley),

civic journalism and editorials

en sources refused to speak with following some coverage, but then them later changes their mind some internal changes within the ' group, it shows how his initial dedication to finishing the story "f."

els-on-the-Lake" was a four-page investigation that gave readers an interactive online map showing every short-term rental in Old Town. Using data from NOTL, it determined that 100 percent of all homes in Old Town had short-term rentals.

o looked at the plight of ordinary residents in town, struggling to find an affordable place to live. As well, it included a story on the town's new accommodation tax and concerns about how it would be handled.

Harley's Jan. 26, 2022, editorial on the "pod" school, "Close maskless school now," was judged the Best Local Editorial in the country in the 10,000 word category. It was published by the Ontario government agency in response to action against the independent

The judges said, "This had everything a local editorial should have. It was well-written, well-researched and called out a glaring problem in a community."

"What was especially good was that it built on the paper's expose and research on the issue that was in the edition. It also called out more than one body for their lack of action."

• **Jill Troyer** and **Don Reynolds** took second place for Best Historical Story (10,000 and over circulation) for the photo-driven feature, "Hiking series explores Black history in NOTL." The story included historical and modern images innovatively conceived and framed on the page, all packaged with vignettes outlining the historical significance of the sites around Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The judges said, "The ease with which this story explains the creation of Black history-focused hikes in NOTL is amazing. The way the photos are handled is creative and one is left wanting to travel straight to NOTL and go for a hike!"

• **Harley** received a second-place Best Photo Essay award (10,000 and over circulation) for "NOTL 'spring' in pic-

tures," published on March 31, 2022. Despite spring having sprung, a late March snowfall, high winds and frigid temperatures blasted the town and he told the story with some compelling photos.

• Former reporter **Molly Bowron**, and editors **Harley** and **MacLean** teamed up to win the third-place prize for Best Multimedia Breaking News Coverage (open circulation) for "Kai Bartel strikes gold."

On Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022, during the final weekend of the Canada Summer Games, when Niagara-on-the-Lake rower Kai Bartel was competing for two shots at a gold medal, we opted to give his events blanket online coverage, with breaking news updates as merited.

Our coverage began with Bowron's setup piece outlining the races to come and she was on-scene covering the races live. MacLean was in our newsroom helping write, edit and publish the breaking news updates.

Bartel missed a medal by seconds in the men's pair final but three hours later scored gold in the heart-stopping men's 8 race, just 42/100ths of a second ahead of B.C.

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Left: Lorraine DeRosa, Bobbie Miller and Anne Dick Litke happily reunite at the Niagara District reunion on Saturday at the Legion. The three women graduated in the classes of '75 and '76. Right: Hundreds of Niagara District alumni came together for a multi-grade reunion organized by the Classic Niagara-on-the-Lake Facebook group. JULIA SACCO



1970s NDSS grads **reunite** at Legion to reminisce

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Nearly 50 years after departing Niagara District Secondary School, about 100 graduates were eager to come together from near and far for a reunion at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion on Saturday.

The former students,

representing three graduating classes, were there to reminisce and enjoy live music and good food.

Organizer Lorraine DeRosa said it all started with a classmate who became a successful author.

“(Arthur Boers) was doing a book signing and he said, ‘Well, wouldn’t it be nice to get our grades

together?’ because the last time we had a high school reunion was in 2007,” DeRosa told The Lake Report.

She explained that because so many people who had moved away began returning to NOTL, it was perfect timing to reconnect.

“We just started reaching out on social media. Some

people that aren’t on social media we ended up calling,” she said.

DeRosa said people from the Grade 12 class of 1975 and the Grade 13 class from 1976 came out.

Lee Anne Penner came back to reunite with her 1976 class after moving out of province after graduation.

“I moved to Winnipeg

after high school and saw that one of my friends was organizing this so I wanted to come back and see everybody,” Penner said.


The reunion piggybacked onto an existing reunion organized by the Classic Niagara-on-the-Lake Facebook group, which happens each year.

Diane Gee Shrive has

been helping organize this reunion for the past eight years and said people continue to come out annually, no matter what.

“They haven’t seen each other for 50 years,” said Gee Shrive.

She added that as long as people can make it, they will keep the reunion going.



THE LOCKS

Sales Center Opening This Fall



Debra Antoncic, director of RiverBrink Art Museum looks at some of the new exhibits. The art centre is celebrating its 40th anniversary. SUPPLIED

RiverBrink marks **40th anniversary** with three new exhibitions

Staff
The Lake Report

The RiverBrink Art Museum is celebrating its 40th anniversary this autumn with the debut of three exhibitions to the public on Saturday, Sept. 23.

The fall opening reception will be held from 3 to 5 p.m., during which patrons will be the first to see the new exhibitions: “Mark Crofton Bell: The Mom Project,” “On Aging” and “40X40: Anniversary Exhibition.”

“These new exhibitions engage viewers on a personal level, from the selections and reflections provided in 40 x 40, to the poignant depictions of frailty captured by artist Mark Bell,” said

the museum’s director and curator Debra Antoncic in a media release.

With “The Mom Project,” artist Mark Bell brings a series of portraits of his mother painted from observation during the final years of her life.

What began as an activity to pursue while visiting his mother in long-term care developed into a sustained exercise in looking. The subtle changes over time are recorded in the small oil on board portraits.

“On Aging” is a congregation of portraits from the Samuel E. Weir Collection at RiverBrink. As the title suggests, the sitters are older adults, their careworn faces displaying the passage

of time. For “40X40: Anniversary Exhibition,” the art museum called upon its community to share their favourite piece from its permanent collection and asked them to describe why it held significance for them.

The result is a selection of 40 pieces, including paintings, drawings, sculpture, silverware and more.

For those interested, information can be found online at riverbrink.org/current-exhibitions.html.

To RSVP for the fall opening reception, contact Asta McCann at amccann@riverbrink.org.

The RiverBrink Art Museum is located at 116 Queenston St. in Queenston.

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Kamran and Davies crowned singles tennis champs

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Blue skies and low humidity made for perfect tennis weather and an exciting finish to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club's season on Saturday.

An enthusiastic crowd at Memorial Park cheered on the competitors as they battled it out in the annual singles tournament finale.

Many matches were closely fought and some took more than two hours to complete.

Early rounds of the tourney took place during the week, with the semifinals and finals played on Saturday.

Three separate events were scheduled – the men's A and B competition and the women's tourney. Consolation matches also were played.

Mohsin Kamran was crowned men's A champ, defeating Gerry McIlhone 7-6 (10) and 6-0.

Women's singles winner

Fran Doran beat Ann Davies in a very tight match, winning 6-4, 7-5.

In a battle that went to a tie-breaker, Sean Hilliker edged Harry Schlange 6-4, 5-7, 10-8 to become men's B champ.

In the men's A consolation match, Mike Symanski defeated Victor Zilinskis 6-2, 6-1, while Bill Devolin won the men's B consolation 6-2, 6-3 over Alec Papidimitriou.

Natalie Early and Karen Rhind needed a tie-breaker to decide the women's consolation final. Early prevailed 7-5, 1-6, 10-8.

It was the closing tournament of the season in what was a very active year for the club and its more than 350 members, club spokesperson Hugh Dow said.

"There have been many upgrades for the club and the participation from so many volunteers has made the Memorial Park courts what many consider to be the best tennis facility in the Niagara region," he said.



Left: Men's A division champion Mohsin Kamran has his eye right on the ball during the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club's season finale on Saturday. Right: Fran Doran won the women's singles championship. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Friday night league honours the season's Couple of Year

Staff
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club's Friday night Couples League capped off its season last week by naming Joe and Victoria Interisano as Couple of the Year.

The award is a reflection of the winners' dedication, positive attitude and ongoing participation, said Cal Cochrane, one of the league's organizers.

Special recognition also was paid to Janice and Jim McMacken, whose stellar play found them in the winners circle for a remarkable nine of their 15 appearances this year.

The season-ending nine-hole scramble featured some excellent scoring as well. Todd and Suzanne Watson teamed with May Chang and Kevin MacLean to shoot 2-under 34 and take first place.

In second by retrogression also with 34 were Shelly and Brock Sansom, Deborah and Grant Williams.

Lenore and Rick Janes, Bonnie Lamourie and Ron Newman were third with 36, followed by Susan and Gord Horne, Carroll and Ted Baker, also 36.

Closest to the pin on #4 were Grant Williams and Patty Garriock, while Larry



Joe and Victoria Interisano were presented with the Couple of the Year trophy by Cal Cochrane, right. KEVIN MACLEAN

Blight and Suzanne Rate sank the longest putts on #8.

Club champ James Grigjanis-Meusel and Jim Rye both shot 2-over 38 to win low gross in Thursday's men's league. Stephen Levy and Dave Gagne were tops in Stableford scoring with 24 points.

Other winners: John Reynolds (long drive #1), Rye (closest to pin #2), Patrick Craig (closest to pin #4), Randy McCartney (long putt #6) and Doug Dineley (closest to pin #9).

Gross skins went to Mark Derbyshire (#1), Grigjanis-Meusel (#5) and Glen Murray (#7). Net skins: Rye (#3), Rai Lauge (#4), Kurt Hamm

(#5) and Don Stewart (#9). Ross Smith made a 12-footer to win \$70 in the putting contest.

The women's 18-holers wrapped up league play Tuesday with a cumulative score game. The team of Cathy Murray, Marie Ellison and Cathy Taylor won with a total of 137. Carolyn Porter was closest to the pin on #9.

In the Tuesday WOOFs league, Don Allen was top dog again, with an even-par 36. Low net went to Russ Phipps (32) and John Reynolds won the hidden hole with a birdie on #6. Todd Watson was closest to the pin on #4.

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Flat third period key to **Predators'** loss in opener

Kevan Dowd
The Lake Report

The Niagara Jr. A Predators hit the ice for their first game of the 2023-2024 season last Friday night but could not derail their opponents to score an early win.

Coming up short against the Tottenham Railers, Niagara lost 5-3 on home ice – a disappointing start for a nearly brand-new team.

The Predators looked good for 40 minutes but fell apart in the third period, in part due to a five-minute penalty from team veteran Nolan Wyers.

But returning Predators' head coach Kevin Taylor felt the poor third-period performance was due to more than just playing short-handed.

"It was bad from the goaltender, straight out to the forwards, through the bench. Everybody was bad in that third period," said Taylor.

"I was expecting to win,



The Predators' Isaac Locker (24), who had a goal and an assist, and Josh Frena (12), close in for a rebound against Tottenham during last Friday's game. KEVAN DOWD

of course, but I don't expect an effort in the third like that. That was just bad."

Niagara's first goal of the new season came nine and a half minutes into the first period on a powerplay courtesy rookie Shane Kaplan but Tottenham tied things up before the first intermission.

Tottenham pulled ahead early in the second but Predators Dylan Den-

ning and Isaac Locker put Niagara in the lead after 40 minutes.

Unfortunately, it would not last.

Tottenham netted their second goal of the night three minutes into the third period and slipped another two by goaltender Zane Clausen while Wyers looked on from the box on a five-minute, high-sticking penalty.

He's one of the better players. I need him on the ice and rely on him. And if he's pushing and shoving after the whistle, why?"

Although Taylor felt the third period hung over the entire game, he still thinks his team did well in the first 40 minutes and that there is a lot to be learned from the night. For him, the nature of the loss is what is disappointing.

"It comes down to how the loss happens and that's what I'm upset about, how it transpired," he said.

"We made some plays and there's things we've been working on in the past week, like driving the net, that we did well. There were a couple guys that were a little shy and played on the outside a little bit but when you see them in practice, they're totally different players."

"So maybe it's good learning for them to see they can compete if they do what they can. The big-

gest thing is I didn't see the speed I was expecting," he said.

"We moved the puck well but the speed – if we had a three-on-two, we made it a three-on-three."

With a whole season ahead, the Predators have plenty of time to make up for their opening-game loss but with a short bench and just seven returning players, it could make for a challenging start. Luckily, they have a week to figure out what worked and what didn't.

"I think we got one powerplay goal but again, we shouldn't have to rely on too-many-men penalties to get us back in the game," said Taylor. "We had control of that game and they just came out flat in the third."

The Predators are back in action against the St. George Ravens this Friday, Sept. 22, at the Meridian Credit Union Arena. Puck drops at 7:30 p.m.

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Valerie McWilliams, Katherine Smith, centre formerly and Pat Kostecki won 9-0 in round robin in the Canadian Senior Triples Lawn Bowling Championship in Edmonton, Alta. Then they beat B.C. for the national gold medal. SUPPLIED

Niagarans win lawn bowling gold

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Pat Kostecki, Katherine Smith and Valerie McWilliams are national lawn bowling champs, winning gold at the 2023 Canadian Senior Triples Lawn Bowling Championship in

Edmonton last week. The women were undefeated, going 9-0 in their round-robin games, and then beat B.C. in the final. The three have been playing together for about four years, said Kostecki, who lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Smith bowls out of

the Ancaster Municipal Lawn Bowling Club while McWilliams and Kostecki are with the St. Catharines Glenridge Lawn Bowling Club. "Katherine is one of the best and most consistent bowlers in Ontario," Kostecki said in a message to The Lake Report. Smith

can outperform most men in the sport, she added. The trio also won nationals in 2019, before the COVID pandemic. "We're a good team because we work well together," said Kostecki. "It just seems to work — whatever one can't do the other one can."

Mark Crofton Bell: THE MOM PROJECT



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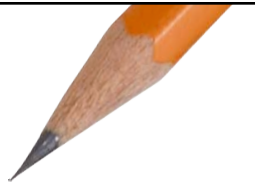
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Have some fun



Across

- 9. Inverted slow-mover (5)
- 10. Hyped too high (9)
- 11. Carton containing other cartons (5)
- 12. Exciting experience (9)
- 13. Teetotal (3)
- 14. Once the subject of a financial bubble (5)
- 15. House of worship (9)
- 17. Explode (5)
- 19. It's white for a new Pope (5)
- 22. Construction sites with slipways (9)
- 24. Informal greeting (3,2)
- 26. Temporary home for many serious cases (1-1,1)
- 27. Most employees think this of themselves (9)
- 29. Goes for gold? (5)
- 30. Lofty (9)
- 31. Military subdivisions (5)

Down

- 1. Dates (7)**
- 2. Backpackers' stopover (6)
- 3. Neither you nor me but the other guy (5,5)
- 4. Sudden attacks (6)
- 5. Portions (8)
- 6. Left behind after a cat vanishes (4)
- 7. Conflict (8)
- 8. Stuck redhead goes crazy (7)
- 16. Pleasant mood (4,6)
- 17. Beneficiary of a Biblical miracle (5,3)
- 18. Corrida star (8)
- 20. Soften minced sausage (7)
- 21. Hold (7)
- 23. The "Ice Age" 9 Across (6)
- 25. Advantageous to both sides (3-3)
- 28. Harassed persistently (4)

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9			10				
11			12				
		13					
14			15		16		
	17		18	19			
20							21
22				23	24	25	
			26				
27		28			29		
30					31		

Last issue's answers

1	R	A	G	T	A	G	5	P	E	R	I	L	O	U	S
	B	U	L	A	E	E		R							
9	H	O	U	R	L	O	N	G	10	M	U	G	A	B	E
	D	N	S	E	I	A	A								
11	W	E	B	S	12	S	P	R	I	N	K	L	I	N	G
	A														
13	S	T	E	W	A	R	D	E	S	S	17	A	C	R	E
	R	A	E	T	C	R	E								
16	D	U	L	Y	19	H	O	C	K	E	Y	T	E	A	M
	M														
20	S	P	E	C	T	A	T	O	R	23	S	24	C	A	T
	E	L	R	V	O	H	I								
26	S	T	R	I	P	S	27	E	X	P	L	O	I	T	S
	E	F	A	N	P	O	L								
28	P	R	O	F	I	L	E	S	29	Y	E	L	L	E	D

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



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Blood clots on brain present complex challenges



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Columnist

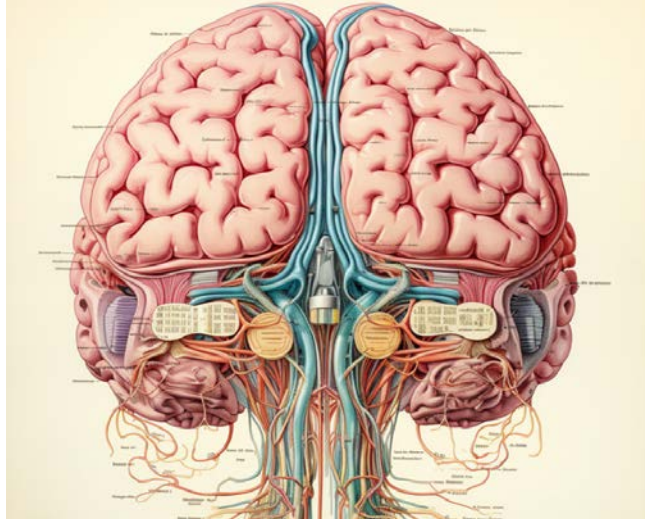
Unfortunately, strokes remain common. The most common are ischemic in origin – the result of a block in an arterial branch, whether a local blood clot or an embolus that deprives the affected region of the brain of the oxygen and glucose it needs to survive.

Less common are hemorrhagic strokes. Most are related to hypertension and rupture of relatively small degenerative penetrating arteries in the base of the brain, which supply the basal ganglia (putamen), thalamus, brainstem or cerebellum.

The outlook very much depends on the site of the bleeding and whether the hemorrhage continues to

enlarge and compress the nearby brainstem. Less familiar might be the hemorrhages, which occur between the tough outer membrane – called the dura – and the underlying flimsier arachnoid membrane. Both are interposed between the inner surface of the skull and a third delicate membrane – the pia mater – which closely invests the contours of the brain, including the sulci between the brain’s gyri.

Between the dura and arachnoid membrane there is an extensive network of venous channels. If these channels are torn by trauma – or because they are more fragile, as they become in the later life – may bleed, creating a localized collection of blood between the inner side of the dural membrane and the arachnoid membrane (the subdural space) and thus the name, subdural hematoma. Acute subdural hemorrhages are dangerous because, if large enough, they can compress the underlying brain and even push the brain downward, jamming the upper brainstem and



causing coma or death. That’s why acute subdural hemorrhages have a high mortality rate. However, recognized early, they can be effectively treated by removing the blood, stopping the bleeding, and sometimes temporarily removing the overlying skull flap to decompress the swollen brain. The outcome depends on the severity of the injuries to the brain, often due to a car crash or injuries from sports such as football or hockey. Subdural hemorrhages in the elderly behave differently. The brain begins to atrophy in the third decade and especially in the latter decades of life. This creates more space between the dura matter and underlying the arachnoid membrane and surface of the brain, and stretches those bridging veins, which being more fragile in later life, are much more likely to be torn and bleed in response to minor blows to the head or perhaps, no injury at all. Many subdural bleeds in the elderly follow trivial injuries, minor enough in some cases to be forgotten. Some happen to patients who are on anticoagulant

drugs because they have atrial fibrillation or some other condition to justify taking anticoagulant or antiplatelet drugs. Subdural clots in the elderly may be asymptomatic or cause a bewildering range of symptoms ranging from headaches to epileptic seizures, impaired balance, difficulty focusing and fluctuating drowsiness. Oddly, speech and vision are rarely affected. Treatment involves draining the subdural through a burr hole in the skull and sometimes including a small drain. But sometimes they recur making it necessary to take out the connective tissue membrane. Allan Ropper, a former colleague of mine in Boston, wrote about such case at Massachusetts General Hospital when Dr. Raymond Adams was asked to see a colleague who had become “confused and dull over several weeks.” Ropper said Adams found grasp responses (fingers and thumb flex when the palm is stroked) and mild weakness on the left side without a

Babinski response (big toe goes up when the sole of the foot is stroked). He percussed each side of the skull, and while departing, decreed, “Chronic subdurals – they need to come out.” Adams was right (without any CT or MRI imaging) and they did. I relate this story because Adams was one of the best neurologists in the world in the 20th century, famous for being right most of the time and an excellent clinical teacher and neuropathologist. He was a close colleague of Miller Fisher, a Canadian born in southern Ontario, who became equally famous for his work on stroke. Between the them, they set the standard for excellence in North America in their time. Their standard continues in the person of Ropper, a Harvard professor of neurology and neurology editor for the New England Journal of Medicine. *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.*

COMMUNITY DONATION PROJECT

Porch Pick-up Food Drive

Newark Neighbours, together with our partners from the NOTL Rotary, NOTL Kinsmen and St. Davids Lions Clubs, are holding a **porch pick-up** food drive

We were so grateful for the tremendous community support of our food drive held in the last several years. It is always overwhelming. Thank you all very much. We’re asking for your generous support once again, this time to assist us in filling our Thanksgiving hampers for our clients.

WHEN: On **Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023**, teams are available to pick up your food donations anytime between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you wish to donate in support of our Food Bank, please call **905-468-7498** OR email us at newarkneighbours1@gmail.com to register your address for pick-up.

Items required for Thanksgiving hampers

	Stuffing mix		Cranberry sauce		Canned green beans
	Cookies - any kind		Cranberry or apple juice		Canned corn
	Snack crackers (any type)		Applesauce		Canned peas
			Canned gravy (poultry)		Canned pineapple
			Gravy mix (poultry)		Canned fruit

General items always needed: Canned salmon, canned tuna, Sidekicks and ramen soup packets, canned chili or spaghetti or ravioli, peanut butter, granola bars, Chunky soup – any kind or flavour, canned beef stew, Habitant soups, canned ham, corned beef or Spam, Flakes of Ham, chicken or turkey, jams – any flavour, soda (soup) crackers, Kraft Dinner, canned beans (e.g. kidney, chickpeas, lentils), canned tomatoes, canned potatoes / instant mashed potatoes, tomato sauce, pasta, rice, pudding cups – any flavour, cereal, oatmeal – any kind, coffee (e.g instant, regular, decaf), tea, shelf stable milk (e.g. condensed, powdered, rice, etc), paper towels, toilet paper, household items (e.g. dish soap, laundry detergent, cleaning products), condiments - salad dressings, mayonnaise, sauces (e.g. HP Sauce, soya sauce, Worcestershire sauce, etc.), dried spices, salt & pepper, toiletries (e.g. toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, hand and body lotion, mouthwash, feminine products)








EXPLORING PHOTOS WITH NOTL MUSEUM



Navy Hall Inn and Ferry House

This is an 1870 sketch of the Navy Hall Inn and Tavern and the Ferry House, which was formerly located near where Navy Hall is today, Ricardo Street, along the river. Note the bluffs on the left side, which show the buildings were along the lower part of the river. It was sketched by Francis H. Granger, who is known for documenting parts of town through sketches and paintings. The Ferry was originally located at the mouth of the river but in 1823 Andrew Heron petitioned for it to be closer to Navy Hall. Inns were often located along the main routes of a community, so it is no surprise that this one was located by the former Kings Wharf with all the ship traffic of the time. A number of inns in early Niagara seconded as taverns and were often used for meeting places in the community.

Old Town filled with happy and **adventurous** visitors



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
Columnist

Queen Street was busy last weekend with visitors of all ages out and about, enjoying what we lucky NOTLers take for granted.

Temperatures were perfect for walking and bike riding, and there were organized and unorganized activities on our streets and in our parks. The scout camp out on the Commons, the Terry Fox Run and other traditional events ... what a town.

As a wise neighbour said years ago, "The only trouble with living here is that we can't go here."

Yes, if we call NOTL home, we tend to forget how beautiful and peaceful our former capital of Upper

Canada is, month in and month out.

"Lickers and clickers" strolled up and down both sides of Queen Street, licking ice cream and gelato, and clicking pictures of flowers, the cenotaph and our unique streetscape.

Our late neighbour and friend Kevan O'Connor apparently coined the term, which so accurately captures the main activities of many visitors from near and far.

Some walk at a fairly normal pace, some meander, some mosey, and some barely make any forward progress as they stop to take photo after photo. "Oh look, a flower" and "Look at this door and doorknob."

Many of them make the day trip from the GTA to relax as a family, to enjoy each other and to celebrate the arrival of autumn.

Grandparents pushing strollers along the sidewalks and in Queen's Royal Park, blankets and tablecloths on picnic tables bring intergenerational families together for several hours and more.

Mini barbecues provide



These cousins from Georgia enjoyed a day in quaint Niagara-on-the-Lake, including lunch at the Angel Inn. ROSS ROBINSON

foods from around the world and children wander the park. So many scents and sounds combine to provide a snapshot of our wonderful and welcoming new world country. This year Canada is committed to welcoming some 450,000 immigrants.

The most heart-warming scene of my summer so far played out in the outdoor garden of the Olde Angel Inn, the smiles of four "Cousins" from rural Georgia, seeming to say it all.

Their warm and magnetic personalities encouraged me to ask them a few questions. They were small-town

ladies, from about 50 miles east of Atlanta.

Four bright pink T-shirts shouted, "COUSINS by blood, SISTERS by heart, FRIENDS by choice."

The four of them had flown into Buffalo and then driven to Niagara Falls to get up close and personal with the Canadian Falls.

A long walk through Queen Victoria Park to the actual brink of the Falls at Table Rock. Then, on to Niagara-on-the-Lake, which had seemed so perfect on the town's tourism website.

They stumbled upon the Olde Angel Inn's rustic restaurant and enjoyed a

meal they raved about. Hot, tasty and filling, whether it was chicken and peach pie, the meatloaf dinner, steak and kidney pie, or the house staple, Fisherman's Pie.

Together with a cold Canadian beverage on a hot September day, and you tell me, could life be much better?

These four adventurers and cousins had travelled way out of their comfort zones on the way down the Niagara River from the Falls, visiting the Landscape of Nations up by Brock's Monument.

They had learned so much about the important contributions of our First Nations people to the development of Canada as a nation, distinct from the United States on the North American continent.

Then, the quantum leap onto the Whirlpool Jetboat from the Queenston dock. An interpretive look at the gorge on the boat ride up to Devil's Hole and the Whirlpool Rapids, then a thorough soaking gave these four cousins memories for a lifetime.

They talked enthusiastically about being "air dried" by Mother Nature and the thrill of being up close and personal in such a wild environment.

They planned to visit Fort George and then tour and taste at Reif Estate Winery.

Two of the cousins have sons back in Georgia, who are enthusiastic Boy Scouts. One of their tasks on this trip to Canada was to watch the annual scout parade from the Commons to our historic downtown main street.

Next year, a hundred or more scouts from Georgia hope to attend the binational September scout get-together here in NOTL.

What happened to this extraordinary event this year? One or two thousand scouts and their parents had not been able to parade and shop downtown, and nobody seemed to know why. They had been forced to a Plan B, walking around Navy Hall and Fort George. Huh?

So much to do, and so many happy visitors from far and wide. Our NOTL rocks.

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With perennials, it's time to **divide** and conquer



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Columnist

September is a great time of the year to step back and take inventory of your perennial gardens.

Why do I say that? Well, it's the time where you can see all the plants at their fullest for the season.

By spring, we tend to forget just how much space certain plants took up in the garden and how crowded certain areas were.

We also tend to forget how great certain perennials performed the previous season.

Did they flower well? Are they starting to lose their vigour? These are all indications that it may be time to divide some perennials.

September to early October is a great time to be transplanting or dividing your perennial clumps. The conditions right now are perfect for root growth to occur.

Optimal root growth happens when the air is cooler, but the soil is still warm from the summer's sun.

If you wait too long to move your perennial plants, the roots will not have a chance to get growing before the soil temperature drops, and there is a greater risk of the root balls being pushed out of the ground by frost.

The general rule for what perennials to divide now and what is best to wait to divide in spring is this: divide spring and early summer flowering in the fall and divide late summer/fall blooming perennials in the



Joanne Young says it's time to divide your perennials.

spring.

By dividing the plants at the opposite time to their bloom, time allows the plant to put all its energy into the root system.

As mentioned above, there are different reasons why you may want to be dividing your perennials.

The first one is that the clump size may be too big for the area that it is in. By dividing the oversized clump, you can reduce its size, keeping it from overtaking the garden.

Another reason to divide a perennial is to rejuvenate the clump. When you see that the centre of the clump has no growth, that the only stems or leaves are found on the outer edges of

the clump, it needs being divided.

With some perennials, when the clump is getting too crowded, it becomes less productive when it comes to flowering.

Irises are one plant where this is quite common. To rejuvenate its vigour, dividing the clump is the only solution.

The other reason for dividing your perennials is just to multiply your plants to create new gardens or to give away to friends and neighbours.

Steps to follow when dividing your perennials:

- If you can plan to divide your perennials on an overcast day with showers in the forecast, it will greatly

help the plant recover from the roots being damaged. It would also be helpful to thoroughly water the plants a day prior to dividing.

- Before digging out the perennial in the fall, cut back the stems of the plant to three to four inches from the ground.

- Using a spade or garden fork, dig into the soil about four to six inches beyond where the shoots emerge. Dig all around the clump then pry up on rootball.

Dig up the entire clump entirely and sit it on top of the ground or on a tarp.

- Instead, if you try to cut through the plant when it is still in the ground, you have no way of knowing how much root you will be getting and could be wasting parts of the plant.

- Using a sharp spade or knife, gently cut through the roots, dividing clump into as many pieces as desired. Each division should have at least three to five vigorous shoots and a healthy supply

of roots. If the centre of the plant has died out, divide the living, outer portions into smaller clumps and throw out the dead, centre portion.

- To help get the new clump off to a good start, enrich the soil in the new planting areas with compost, composted manure or triple mix before planting the new divisions. Fertilize new plantings by scattering a handful of bone meal in the bottom of the planting hole. Bone meal is high in phosphorus which will help stimulate root growth.

- Fill in around the plant roots with triple mix or compost. Make sure that the plant is in the soil at the same depth that it was previously then water well.

Keep your garden flourishing by dividing your perennials when needed.

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

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