



Body found in backyard | Page 17

Sean Simpson to lead NOTL Museum's \$10M expansion

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum has recruited pharmacist Sean Simpson as the face of a major \$10-million

project aimed at revitalizing and expanding the facility.

Simpson will lead a community campaign to raise \$5 million from donors. With matching government grants, the museum hopes to cover the full \$10-million

cost of the expansion.

"He understands how important the history is in our town and how important it is to enrich the knowledge of our youth in that history as well," said Sarah Kaufman, managing

director and curator of the museum.

"He was really the perfect candidate" to lead the Building History: Strengthening Community campaign, she added.

Simpson, the pharmacy

liaison at Simpson's Pharmasave, has supported the museum over the years through donations and assisting with its apothecary collection, she said.



Continued on Page 4 Sean Simpson



After more than one year and through 65 episodes, the series of prolific profiles by historical expert Ron Dale about area men who gave their lives in our two world wars, is coming to an end.

It all started on June 2, 2022, with part one of *The Monuments Men* and a story about William Currie, the first Niagara-on-the-Lake soldier to die in the First World War.

That 53-part series related the stories of the men memorialized on NOTL's two cenotaphs.

Then, in *Missing in Action*, Dale told a dozen stories about NOTL soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice, but for various reasons were not included on either of the town's cenotaphs.

The tale of Bruce Martin, the final story in the series, appears today on Page 5.

GLENDALE RISING

White Oaks proposes new, high-density condo towers



An aerial rendering of the proposed White Oaks condo development as seen from the north side, near the QEW. SOURCED

Evan Loree | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

Glendale is taking the first step toward becoming a bona fide urban centre in Niagara-on-the-Lake – with the unveiling of a major new development complete with

• Major project catches residents by surprise, Page 3.

four highrise condo towers for the area's growing number of inhabitants.

Michael Rietta, an architect re-

tained by developer White Oaks Tennis World Inc., presented designs for a mixed-use highrise development at a virtual open

house meeting on Sept. 19.

The proposed development will be built on almost two hectares (about five acres) near the

Continued on Page 2

Indigenous people have mixed feelings about path to reconciliation

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

While some in the Indigenous community feel optimistic about the path towards truth and reconcili-

ation, others say there's a long way to go.

Phil Davis, who helps lead the men's drum circle on Monday nights at the Niagara Regional Native Centre, said life was a lot worse 50 years ago.

Davis told The Lake Report a lot has changed since the Canadian government completed the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

"I feel very comfortable speaking my reality," he told The Lake Report at a

drum circle Monday night.

"We know our realities that we've lived through," he added.

One reality is that there are dead children buried at the grounds of residential schools.

Davis said it's been hard to get the truth of what happened in residential schools out.

It's not enough, he said, that Indigenous people lived through it, people want to see scientific data proving it.

"There's your science and data in the ground right there," he said.

For Davis, reconciliation is about putting Indigenous people back "in control of

Continued on Page 6



Peninsula
Flooring Ltd.

13 Henegan Road | Virgil Business Park (905)-468-2135

Proudly Supplying and Installing

ANTRIM
HAND-LOOMED CARPETS & RUGS

HIBERNIA
WOOLEN MILLS

Crescent
DISTINCTIVE CARPET | CUSTOM RUGS

STANTON
CARPET • CUSTOM RUGS • RUNNERS

Rosecore
LUXURIOUS CARPET & CUSTOM RUGS

Serving Niagara Since 1977
SIMPSON'S
 Pharmacy: 905.468.2121 | Apothecary: 905.468.8400
 Shop from the comfort of home www.simpsonsparmacy.ca
 In-store | Curbside pick-up or | FREE local delivery | * Orders over \$25

FREE Regional Delivery*

Join us for monthly Customer Appreciation Days:
 Every 3rd Wednesday of the Month
 Customers 60+:
 Every Last Thursday of the Month
ONLINE & IN-STORE

Curbside Pick-up Available



Don't miss these stories online at niagaranow.com

- New interim president aims to revitalize Willowbank
- Town strikes deal to use some regional planning services
- Porch Pickup helps Newark help neighbours prepare for Thanksgiving

Subscribe to our free daily newsletter. Just visit www.niagaranow.com and you'll be prompted to sign up.

Glendale towers will contain 810 residential units

Continued from Front Page

corner of Glendale Avenue and Taylor Road, across from the Niagara Outlet Collection and next door to White Oaks Resort and Spa.

The future development will consist of 810 residential units in four towers of 17, 18, 21 and 25 storeys, respectively.

Most of the entire 5.85-hectare (14.5-acre) parcel is still undeveloped, with only the White Oaks Resort on the site.

The four residential towers will be mounted on what Rietta called "five-storey podiums."

The tallest of the four towers, facing the intersection of Glendale and Taylor, will be 82.5 metres above ground level.

The project would be completed in phases, with the towers facing Taylor built first, followed by the ones facing Glendale.

Residents will get the chance to weigh-in on the project at a public meeting on Oct. 3 at Niagara-on-the-Lake's town hall.

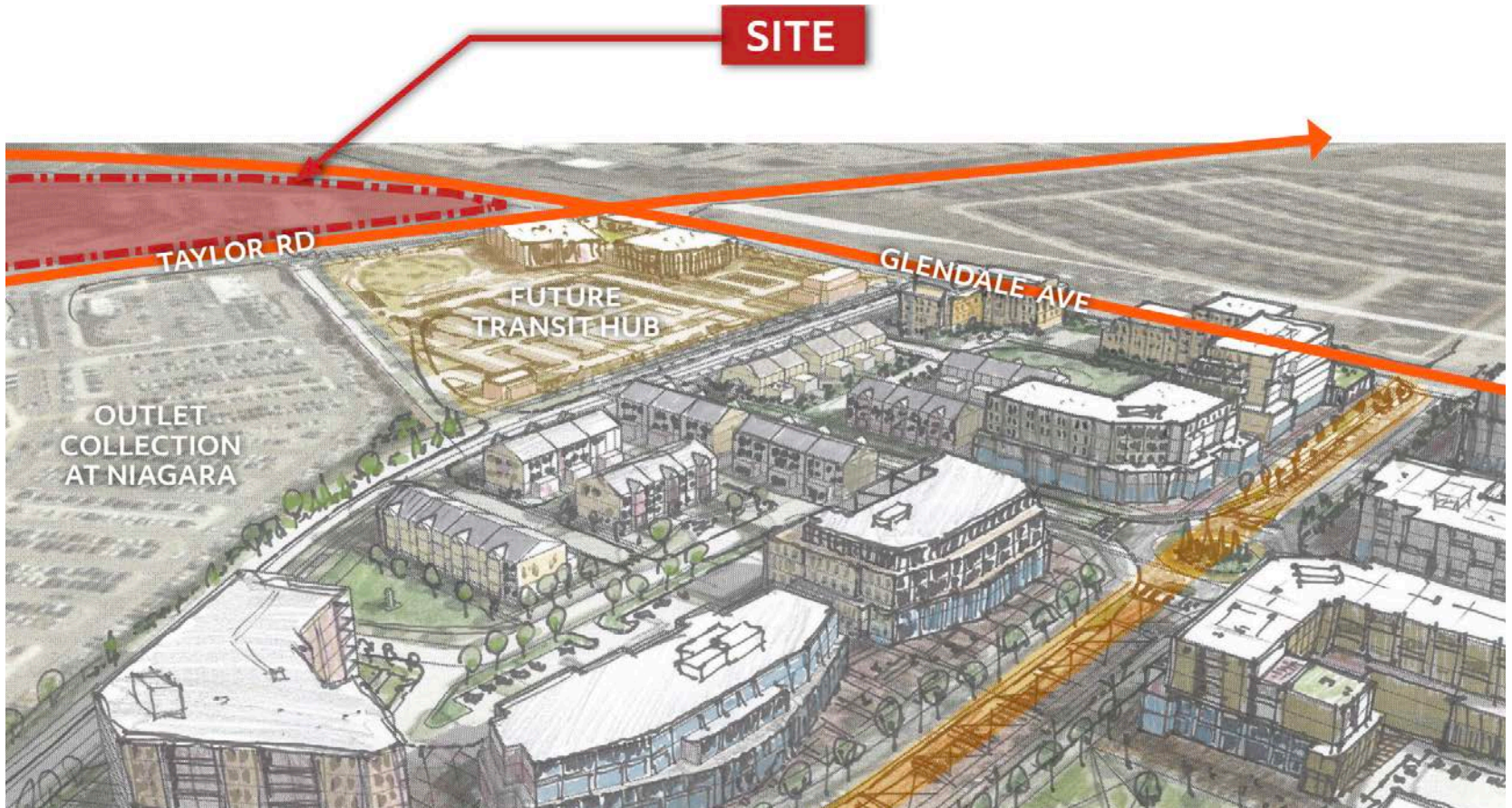
Stephen Bedford, a planner retained by White Oaks, said the goal of the development is to affirm a "unique identity for the community."

The project will "reconfirm White Oaks as the entrance to Niagara-on-the-Lake," Bedford said in a planning report submitted with the proposal.

The proposal makes no mention of rental accommodation but says the developers will submit a draft plan for condominiums at a later date.

The application says the project "will create potential attainable housing opportunities for a wider range of household sizes and income levels."

Bedford asked for the land adjacent to White Oaks Resort to be rezoned for



A sketch of what Glendale could look like as the district takes shape. The proposed towers are located at the back of the drawing. SOURCED

mixed-use, high-density.

Citing 2016 census data, his report said apartments make up just five per cent of residential units in NOTL.

It also said the proposal will "introduce a variety, scale and type of unit which is not readily available within Niagara-on-the-Lake's existing housing stock."

The proposed condominiums will range in size from 605 to 1,200 square feet.

The land is currently zoned village commercial, but Bedford's report argues the town is already planning for high-density residential projects like this one in its Glendale Secondary Plan.

"The Glendale District Plan forecasts a total Glendale population of 15,000 residents at full build-out," says the market impact assessment submitted with the application.

At a council workshop on Sept. 25, Ron Palmer, a

consultant retained by the town to help plan Glendale's growth, estimated the eventual population of Glendale could be as high as 21,000.

"The condos will range in size from 605 to 1,200 square feet."

The market impact report, prepared by Parcel Economics Inc., says the White Oaks development could accommodate up to 1,400 future residents.

The project is near the Niagara District Airport and therefore falls under restrictions that limit heights to 19 metres above ground.

Those restrictions aim to prevent high buildings from interfering with flight paths for aircraft using the nearby runways.

The developer is asking that these requirements

be waived on the grounds that the buildings will not impede the safety of air travellers.

Ben Crooks, an aviation planner with HM Aero Aviation Consulting, provided a report for the developer which says the proposed buildings are "not anticipated to result in aviation safety concerns."

Rietta noted, "Leveraging the wellness is really a big part of why we're doing this mixed-use community here."

The spa offers a lot of facilities and services, including an indoor pool, exercise facilities, social clubs, day care and restaurants, which can support growing communities, he said.

"All these things are really advantageous both for the White Oaks Spa as well as the new residential community," he said.

Mixed-use zoning will permit the use of more than 1,500 square metres

(about 16,000 square feet) of ground-level area for retail services, Bedford's report stated.

Rietta presented sketches showing the retail units, to be located under the 18- and 25-storey towers, would face Taylor Road.

The future retail spaces will give Taylor Road an urban street view that stretches all the way to Glendale.

Rietta suggested the retail spaces could be used for cafes with "spill-out patios" facing Taylor Road.

Parcel Economics' market impact report also suggested there is a need to diversify the commercial offerings in Glendale.

The retail services planned in the development are described as a "first step" toward that goal.

The towers will surround a publicly accessible courtyard described in Bedford's report as an "internal garden oasis."

The corner of Glen-

dale Avenue and Taylor Road will be privately owned, but publicly accessible, said Rietta.

He said the developer is planning to integrate sustainable features into the development in the form of green roofs, permeable paving, bike-sharing stations and charging ports for electric cars.

"We think it's a real great story about sustainable and -I would say- synergistic redevelopment," he said.

The entire site will have two levels of underground parking with 754 spaces for the new residents.

Part of the project will be built on a parking lot now used by guests at the spa.

Bedford's report said the lost parking would be made up for with a new above-ground garage with 262 spaces.

The proposed garage will replace tennis courts located behind the spa facing the QEW.



HIRING KITCHEN STAFF!



Wed - Sun, 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Dine-in and take-out

Tel: (905) 468-3871
390 Mary Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Serving Fresh Asian-Fusion Cuisine In a Cozy Atmosphere



Niagara on the Green residents Geoffrey Anderson, Deepak Singh, Jarrett L'ortye live close to White Oaks, where four highrise apartment buildings are planned as part of a large new development. STEVE HARDAKER

Glendale residents surprised to learn about huge White Oaks project

Steve Hardaker
Community Correspondent

To say residents of the Niagara on the Green neighbourhood were surprised when they learned that White Oaks Resort and Spa is about to launch a massive residential development on its property would be an understatement.

There was little fanfare and only a small yellow public notice sign outside on the lawn to inform residents about the plan.

A virtual open house was held Sept. 19, but few people knew about it.

An in-person/virtual public meeting is planned for Oct. 3 at 6 p.m. in the town's council chambers. Attendees need to register by Oct. 2.

White Oaks is preparing to build four highrise, high-density residential towers on land at the corner of Glendale Avenue and Taylor Road beside the existing hotel and resort.

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake posted a "Notice of Complete Application," plus information about an open house and public meeting on its website after receiving applications for official plan and zoning

bylaw amendments for the property.

The plans propose 17- and 21-storey apartment buildings with 390 residential units and 18- and 25-storey mixed-use buildings containing 420 residential units and 1,515 square metres of ground floor commercial and retail space.

However, town plans for the Glendale community call for maximum heights of about seven storeys due to the area's proximity to Niagara District Airport flight paths. Building heights near White Oaks could be lower than that.

The proposal also includes 1,016 parking spaces in a parking garage and underground structure.

This correspondent only learned about the applications when he stumbled upon the notice on the town's website while researching another issue.

When the news was shared among Niagara on the Green residents via their private Facebook group, the reaction was complete surprise, although this plan has been in the works for a number of years.

Geoffrey Anderson, who moved to the neighbourhood four years ago, wrote

in a message that "this project at White Oaks in the long term is going to be a good thing for this small community here in Glendale."

"We cannot stay isolated from all types of grocery stores and all the other amenities that we need on a daily basis," he said.

"Right now we have to travel too far to get our daily essentials. This is a start, along with the other planning they're doing between the mall and our neighbourhood in Glendale," Anderson said.

"Eventually this is all going to get built up and as long as the designers and planners are doing the right job, we will end up with a lovely community here."

Jarrett L'ortye, a seven-year resident of Niagara on the Green, saw it differently.

"I moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake to get away from highrise buildings and dense population areas. It might just be me, but I hope this doesn't happen."

L'ortye added, "I love coming over the Garden City Skyway and seeing little that reminds me of a growing metropolis."

"There is a peace about this town" and he'd hate to

see it spoiled "by towering concrete structures and standardized heavy traffic."

Deepak Singh, who moved to the neighbourhood just over a year ago, was both positive and cautious.

"Exciting times lie ahead as the new residential and commercial towers grace our beautiful neighbourhood, promising economic growth, and bringing a plethora of amenities."

But Singh also suggested, "It poses the risk of altering the serene charm and potentially straining local resources."

"Residents are optimistic but cautious, hoping the development will harmonize with, rather than overshadow, the unique spirit of our small town."

In the first few days after the original announcement of the development was posted to the neighbourhood Facebook group, it had garnered almost 60 comments, indicating a high level of interest in the future of the project.

Steve Hardaker has lived in Glendale for more than 13 years and is active in many community organizations.


SPIRIT IN NIAGARA
SMALL BATCH DISTILLERS
FABULOUS FOOD,
AWARD WINNING FARM TO GLASS
SPIRITS & COCKTAILS

RESERVE WITH US EVERY
MONDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY
NO COVER CHARGE
SAX, BLUES, & PIANO TUNES
FT. ED PIZZO
DRAGAN ON SAXOPHONE
WILBER JAMES BLUES BAND



OPEN 11AM - 8PM DAILY
458 LAKESHORE ROAD, NOTL
905 934 1300 | spiritinniagara.com

St. David's
VETERINARY CLINIC stdavidsvetclinic.com



Is your pet protected?

House-calls available 📞 905.262.8777

airway CPAP inc. 

NOW OPEN for all your CPAP and sleep apnea supplies.

Free delivery in NOTL and VIRGIL.

Curbside pick-up available at
111A Garrison Village Dr., Suite 202, NOTL.
For appointment call 289-868-9212.

HONoured TO BE YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA




TONY BALDINELLI, M.P.
NIAGARA FALLS

NIAGARA FALLS/NOTL OFFICE: 4056 Dorchester Road, Suite 107, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6M9, Tel.: 905-353-9590
FORT ERIE OFFICE: 48 Jarvis Street, Fort Erie, ON L2A 2S4, Tel.: 905-871-9991
TONY.BALDINELLI@PARL.GC.CA, TONYBALDINELLI.MPCA

St. Davids-Queenston United Church

1453 York Rd. St Davids
905-262-5242
www.stdavids-queenstonuc.ca
Minister: Rev. YongSeok Baek

Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m.
Also online
Visit our website




Pauline Reimer Gibson is an Audiologist with over 20 years of experience who loves helping people of all ages in the community. Julia Dick is the Front Office Coordinator and a longtime resident of Virgil. Call Julia today to book a complimentary hearing test.

Book a complimentary hearing test today at 905.468.9176

504 Line 2 Road, Virgil ON

A global leader in hearing healthcare.





Code Grey: Two new doctors 'good first step': O'Connor

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

As the Niagara North Family Health Team gears up to welcome new practitioners to Niagara-on-the-Lake, many are relieved at the thought of the town gaining two much-needed doctors.

Two doctors are joining the Niagara Medical Centre in Virgil this fall: Dr. Anne Wilson starts meeting patients on Oct. 2 and Dr. Michael Grasic joins the practice Dec. 4.

"It's a good first step," said Coun. Sandra O'Connor, who has been vocal about her views on health care's shortcomings in NOTL and across the region.

However, she said, it is only a first step.

"There's still more work to be done," O'Connor said.

O'Connor cited Jill Croteau, a physician recruitment specialist for Niagara Region, who said that the town needs 14 doctors.

With 11 practising in



NOTL's new doctors, Anne Wilson and Michael Grasic. Wilson starts Oct. 2 and Grasic starts Dec. 4. SUPPLIED

NOTL, the municipality is three doctors short.

"We have two now coming, which is great. According to her statistics we still need one more," O'Connor said.

But O'Connor thinks that is still underestimating the amount this town should have, arguing that with 36 per cent of residents in Niagara-on-the-Lake being 65 or older, the level of need is higher.

"When you have older patients their issues are more complex so therefore the doctors need more time with them and that translates to a need for more doctors," she said.



O'Connor added that while she doesn't know what the perfect number is, she assumes 14 isn't it.

Wilson has been working as a doctor for the past decade, including several years working out of the Family Health Organization in Niagara Falls.

Being familiar with the doctor shortage in the region and the level of care needed, Wilson feels confident that she can help alleviate some of the need here in NOTL.

"There's no set number (of patients) that we will need to take, it will depend on demand. There is

another physician coming with me so I think that will help," she told The Lake Report.

"I still don't think we will be able to take all of the patients that are in need, I feel that the area is still quite underserved still," Wilson added.

She explained that when her previous practice in Niagara Falls shut down, more than 2,000 patients were orphaned because no doctors were available to take over. That is just a small example of patients in need.

Given her knowledge of the area, though, Wilson is dedicated to ensuring that her NOTL patients are met with exceptional care.

"You need to see what the need is because every patient population is different," she said.

"Niagara-on-the-Lake is probably going to be more complex, older patients who require more time," she said, adding that this will go into consideration when capping off how many she is able to accept.

"I'm a doctor who doesn't like my patients to wait more than two weeks to come in to see me. So if my wait time gets longer than that, I pause accepting (new patients)," Wilson said.

Wilson also mentioned Health Care Connect, which allows hospitals to send more complex orphaned patients to the family health team, which has the resources to help.

With the steps toward increasing the number of doctors in NOTL just beginning, O'Connor outlined her hopes going forward to The Lake Report.

"We have been working with the Ministry of Health to get the nurse practitioner position back, which will be open to any walk-ins and all those who don't have to be rostered into the Niagara North Family Health Team," O'Connor said.

She added that the ministry has given this idea the green light, but the process to ensure that the right governing structure is in place

has taken more than a year so far.

"We're still working on it and we're still hopeful," she said.

O'Connor added that during a visit to her doctor's office two weeks ago she witnessed somebody in need of stitches being turned away and told to visit St. Catharines, since NOTL does not have walk-in capabilities.

"That really brought it home to me when I saw this first-hand and this is not an isolated situation," O'Connor said.

For now, NOTLers can look forward to a shortened patient waiting list at home in Virgil. The Niagara North Family Health Team's is eager to welcome both Wilson and Grasic into the fold.

In an email to The Lake Report, executive director Mary Keith said, "We are looking forward to being able to provide team-based primary care to those in Niagara-on-the-Lake who have not been able to access a family doctor."

Museum plans to build new two-storey, 6,225-square-foot facility

Continued from Front Page

The campaign, now in its formative stages, is to revitalize and renovate the museum, a project Kaufman said she's been working on for more than a decade.

Over the years, she's been "trying to find ways to make our museum more relevant to better meet the needs of the community, to better meet the needs of the tourism community (and) the economy that's here," she said.

The historical society owns land behind the museum's Memorial Hall and plans call for a new, two-storey 6,225-square-foot facility to be built there.

The basement of that structure will be connected to a new basement to be dug under Memorial Hall, providing much-needed storage space and ensuring the structural safety of the 115-year-old building.

Simpson and Kaufman will be the faces of the



NOTL Museum director Sarah Kaufman, left, and Sean Simpson are excited to bring the NOTL Museum's major \$10 million expansion project to life. SOMER SLOBODIAN

campaign and the two main points of contact for everything to do with the expansion.

"Our town has such a rich and vibrant history," Simpson said in a news release.

"This project will enrich our ability to share the story of our heritage with our children and those that follow them."

He told The Lake Report the museum, at 43 Casltreagh St. in Old Town, is

really a "hidden gem" in the community.

"I think not a lot of people are aware of how cool it is and all of the history that's here," he said.

"We live in, obviously, a very historical town, so it would only make sense that the museum becomes more well-known within the community, not amongst even just residents, but even amongst the people that visit our town," he added.

The museum expansion will include new exhibit space for the facility's more than 53,000 artifacts. That's a lot of items for a small museum, Kaufman said.

"Our spaces are so tight right now," she said.

The design also will include interactive exhibits, a new gift shop, community event spaces and improved accessibility so that it's open to everyone.

"This will allow us to have anyone (who) can come in and learn, reach all of the exhibition spaces, all of the community spaces and bathrooms," said Kaufman.

At the moment, the museum is not fully accessible to people with mobility issues, she said, and that concerns her.

She wants the space to be accessible to both visitors and staff.

"We've got steep stairs when we go to our collection spaces and such, which can be very tricky for hiring someone who has those

mobility issues," she said.

Kaufman said she's excited about the new interactive exhibits, which would include a mix of hands-on and virtual reality experiences.

"I'm someone who loves the mix of digital interactives, but also hands-on interactives, so we're really liking the combination between the two," she said.

The project is "shovel ready" and all that is needed is the money to make it a reality, she said.

So, in his leadership role, Simpson will be helping connect donors to the museum, spreading the word about the project and showing donors the current space and its potential.

"I think that we have a world-class town and we have world-class residents that live here and I think they deserve a museum that is fitting for them," said Kaufman.

She said anyone looking to help preserve NOTL's history, as the only local

history museum, is encouraged to contact Simpson or herself.

"I can give them a tour of the site and how it will change. I'm happy to do that for anyone who's interested in donating to the project," said Kaufman.

She's hoping the project will be completed by 2026, which is the 100th anniversary of the death of Janet Carnochan, the founder of the museum.

Carnochan also fundraised to build Memorial Hall, which was the first Ontario building to be built for the sole purpose of being a historical museum.

"It would be really great to open up around that anniversary and kind of commemorate her and her accomplishments for the growth of our organization," said Kaufman.

Anyone interested can reach out to her at skaufman@nhsn.ca. Simpson can be contacted via email at sean@simpsons-pharmacy.ca.



Lolita Hale
Sales Representative
905-380-6410

Bald. REAL ESTATE TEAM
SOLED
Royal LePage NRC Brokerage

John Bald
Broker | Team Leader
905-984-1110





Bruce Martin's role was to drive supply trucks like these to help resupply troops on the front lines. SUPPLIED

MISSING IN ACTION

Trooper Bruce Martin died in a truck crash

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 Second World War, a total of 42,042 Canadians who enlisted in the armed forces died.

This included 22,917 in the Canadian Army, 17,101 in the RCAF and 2,024 in the Royal Canadian Navy.

Most were killed in combat, but a significant number died of disease or by accident. The latter includes Trooper Bruce Lenard Martin.

Born on May 5, 1924, he was the second-youngest child of Charles Martin and Annabelle McIntosh who lived on Lot 1, Concession 8, Grantham Township, which is now part of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

It was a large household with three sons and five daughters. The Martins were farmers who operated a dairy.

Bruce Martin was active in sports, playing baseball and hockey in season. When he finished Grade 8 in 1940, he chose not to attend secondary school. He worked for his father as a truck driver for the next three years.

When he turned 19, he was old enough to serve in the Canadian Army in a theatre of war and lost little time in enlisting.

On June 15, 1943, he

travelled to Toronto and joined the 11th Armoured (Ontario) Regiment.

For the next six months he underwent training at Camp Borden as a driver and mechanic for various army vehicles.

He also qualified on the Lee Enfield rifle, Bren light machine-gun, Piat anti-tank weapon, Sten submachine-gun and hand grenades.

Although his unit was a tank regiment, he was not trained as a tank driver.

He was destined to be a truck driver whose role was to transport supplies from rear area depots to the front-line tanks and tankers.

On Dec. 24, 1943, he arrived by train in Halifax and embarked on a ship for passage to the U.K.

He disembarked at Liverpool on Jan. 3, 1944, but was not in England long. On Feb. 19, 1944, he boarded a ship bound for Italy where the 11th Armoured Regiment was fighting.

On arrival in Italy on March 3, Martin was transported to the headquarters of his regiment.

After his arrival, the Canadians continued to advance, slowly pushing the Germans from prepared defensive positions to even more formidable previously prepared "lines."

During this campaign Martin travelled over mud-

slickened roads that were pockmarked by artillery craters, ever in danger of running over a landmine.

As he approached the front lines to deliver fuel, rations, spare parts and ammunition to the tanks and tankers he was vulnerable to enemy artillery. And he always was at risk of being attacked by German aircraft.

During the summer, the pace of the war picked up. Rome fell on June 4, 1944, and Canadians participated in the breaking of the German defences of the Trasimene Line, the liberation of Florence in August, and the capture of the Gothic Line in September.

After Sept. 21, when the Allies entered Rimini, the men of the 11th Armoured Regiment were given a break prior to participating in a campaign to advance into the Po River valley.

The regiment withdrew to an encampment for rest, repair, resupply and refit.

On Sept. 24, Martin and 21 of his comrades were granted leave. The men climbed into the back of a troop truck driven by Corporal Rollings and set off on the Borgo San Lorenzo Road, taking the men to their holiday location.

The truck slowly climbed a very steep hill and then

cresting it, started downhill heading toward a sharp curve and a steep embankment.

The brakes on the truck failed and it continued to pick up speed approaching the curve. The truck went off the road and rolled eight times.

The injured men were loaded into another truck to take them to the nearest casualty clearing station. Trooper Bruce Martin died en route and one of his comrades died shortly afterward.

The two men were initially buried near Siena, where the casualty clearing station was located. After the war they were reburied north of Rome at the Lake Bolsena British Empire Cemetery, which is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Not all of those who made the ultimate sacrifice were killed in action. May they rest in peace and may they 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.

FREE DAILY NEWSLETTER



Stay up-to-date on the news that matters to NOTL

Sign up at niagaranow.com

The Lake Report



DR HOPKINS & ASSOCIATES
OPTOMETRY
— Sight for Life —

NOTL: 905-468-8002 | 358 Mary St. | www.theeyedoc.ca
St. Catharines: 905-682-9119 | 8 Second Dr.

Proud to support local news!



WAYNE GATES

MPP Niagara Falls proudly representing Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-357-0681



The Provincial Service Officer will be visiting the Thorold Legion, Branch 17, on **November 2, 3, and 4**

Any Veteran wishing an appointment with the Provincial Service Officer, should contact Branch 124, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Legion Office at **(905) 468-2353**.

House Contents Sale - 213 John Street W, NOTL
Saturday Sept. 30 - Sunday Oct. 1, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Both days. Custom-framed pictures, duvet covers, quilts, shower curtains, bread machine, large roaster, antiques, large mirror, dishes, and King Edward 1937 Coronation accessories, Cabbage Patch Doll, other dolls and stuffed toys, many, many other items worth the drive.

FISH FRY



THURSDAYS 4 - 7 P.M. TAKEOUT/EAT-IN
1 PC \$12 | 2 PC \$17 | CASH ONLY (TAXES INCLUDED)



HALL RENTAL AVAILABLE

Royal Canadian Legion Br. 124 | 410 King St.
Phone: 905-468-2353 | E-mail: legion124@gmail.com

Indigenous artist shares art and memories at RiverBrink

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Jamie-Lynn Gillingham says that every Indigenous person you meet has been touched by the Canadian residential school system in some way: either they're a survivor, or they are descended from someone who survived them.

For Gillingham, an Anishinaabe artist, one descendant she's carrying in her heart as the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on Saturday draws near is her grandmother, Gladys Johnson.

"Everything we do is for my grandmother in her memory," Gillingham said at the RiverBrink Art Museum last Friday, where she was teaching attendees about Indigenous cultural practices.

Truth and Reconciliation Day, which became a federal holiday two years ago, honours the First Nations, Métis and Inuit people who survived the Canadian Indian residential school system, which lasted for more than 160 years.

Museum administrator Janet Zylstra said that with



Chauntel Nelles, left, and her daughter Cassandra Cooper bundle sacred medicines with a small group of people visiting Riverbrink Museum. EVAN LOREE

Truth and Reconciliation Day coming up on Sept. 30, it was a good opportunity to feature Gillingham in a day of workshops educating people about Indigenous culture.

Gillingham, whose name in Anishinaabemowin is Diindiisi Kwe (or Bluejay Woman), specializes in beadwork, jewelry, leatherwork and medicine pouches.

When The Lake Report arrived, Gillingham was teaching a small crowd how to bundle the four sacred

medicines: tobacco, cedar, sage and sweetgrass.

Ellen Smith and Tracey Chen, both from Niagara Falls, were there and learning how to bundle medicine.

They both said they were interested in learning more about the Indigenous community.

Chen said it "really touched my heart," when Gillingham spoke during the morning smudging ceremony.

Chauntel Nelles was there with her daughter Cassan-

dra Cooper, both of whom are Algonquin.

The two were there observing Truth and Reconciliation Day and thinking of those children who attended these residential schools primarily from the 1830s to the 1990s.

"We want to honour every single one of them," Nelles said.

She said the "hard times and trauma" endured by Indigenous communities across Canada were "everywhere" she said.

The Canadian government set up the first residential school, the Mohawk Institute in Brantford, which began operating in 1831 and was not officially closed until 1970.

The last residential school in Canada wasn't closed until 1996.

Over the course of their history, residential schools were used to systematically assimilate Indigenous children into white, settler-colonial society and culture.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada described child neglect in the schools as "institutionalized" in its final report in 2015.

"Many children were fed a substandard diet and given a substandard education," it said.

"The lack of supervision created situations where students were prey to sexual and physical abusers," it said.

These conditions resulted in high death rates among the children.

Those who died continue to be discovered in mass graves on the grounds of the old schools.

"My grandmother was forcibly taken from her

home, from her family," Gillingham said.

Gillingham said her grandmother was raped and abused in residential school.

The purpose of Truth and Reconciliation Day is to remember stories like her grandmother's, she said.

"But one day isn't enough to really, really acknowledge what truly is happening," she added.

Children were forbidden from speaking their native languages at these schools, and often punished if they did so. Many lost their connections to their families and their traditional ways of life.

There is now a "gap," Gillingham says, between many Indigenous people and their culture.

Gillingham said not all people in the community know the customs and practices of their own culture.

While she began learning about her culture from a young age, it was kept quiet and she was bullied a lot at school for being Indigenous.

"It's okay now," she said.

"I'm strong enough resilience enough to take back what is rightfully ours," she said.

Mixed feelings about truth and reconciliation

Continued from Front Page

our own destiny."

He said it was important to make sure Indigenous people were represented in positions of leadership, especially on school boards and in the health-care system.

He said the community was just starting to gain seats at the table, and wondered what it would look like in 20 years.

But for Larissa Engels, support co-ordinator of the centre's Homeward Bound program, reconciliation moves slowly and the truth is still stuck in the dark.

"The last residential school didn't close until 1966," she said. "That intergenerational trauma exists, and it is still being felt today."

"Bringing the truth forward is about educating

and acknowledging the true history of indigenous peoples," she said.

She remembers it wasn't until she went to university that she learned about the legacy of residential schools.

"I actually had to pay to learn my history,"

Truth, she said, was also about correcting false narratives about Indigenous people.

While her peers are trying their best to remember everyone who was hurt by residential schools, Engels thinks of her grandfather this time of year.

She wasn't sure if her grandfather Cecil Murdock went through residential schools, but she "knew he was scooped."

Scooping refers to another assimilationist practice adopted by the Canadian government during the 1960s.

"Indigenous children were taken from their families and put into the foster care system and adopted out to non-Indigenous people around the world," the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation says on its website.

The practice resulted in severing children from their families, cultures and languages.

Engels remembers in 2017, her grandfather became sick. That was around the time she started drumming and singing.

"I remember the first time I came home and I sang the Seven Grandfathers song for him. And he cried."

"It had been so long since he had heard the drum," she said.

Josephine Lavalley, an Onondaga woman from Six Nations, was also at drum night.

She said she doesn't want

people to get stuck on the atrocities of the past, or for "white people to feel guilt for what their ancestors did."

"I want them to be at peace with the past," she said.

The Yellowhead Institute, an Indigenous research centre at the Toronto Metropolitan University, released a report December 2022 which found only 13 of the 94 calls to action outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission have been answered.

The report said at the current rate it would take 42 years to complete them all.

The two calls to action completed in 2022 were "completed by non-governmental professional associations," the report said.

Engels said this progress is "very little in the grand scheme of things."



Top: Phil Davis, left, leads a group of fellow drummers in a singing of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star." Fellow drummer Rin Simon joins him in the beating of the grandfather drum. Bottom: Larissa Engels thinks of her grandfather Cecil Murdock when truth and reconciliation comes up. Murdock was separated from his family during the '60s Scoop. EVAN LOREE


NIAGARA ON THE LAKE
MUSEUM

Bound and Determined

Chloe Cooley, Enslavement, and the Fight for Freedom

EXHIBIT ON DISPLAY JUNE 2 - NOV. 13, 2023

43 Castlereagh St.
Niagara-on-the-Lake
notlmuseum.ca
Open daily



Another brick in the wall



Niagara-on-the-Lake's new gateway wall at Mississauga and Queen is well on its way to being ready for a formal unveiling by the town. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Fundraising gears up for archeological dig at Black burial ground

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground has a new plaque officially commemorating its new name – and a community committee is gearing up for a major fundraising drive to restore headstones at the cemetery.

Councillors, staff and residents met at the Mississauga Street site last Tuesday afternoon to formally dedicate the cemetery's new historic plaque.

"I'm excited that it's getting recognized, as it should be," said Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa.

The town also unveiled a new plaque at Rye Heritage Park on Rye Street, in honour of the 1837 Solomon Moseby affair, when a U.S. enslaver unsuccessfully tried to force Moseby to return to America.

The burial ground plaque replaces its old sign, which carried the cemetery's for-

mer name, the Negro Burial Ground.

For George Webber, chair of the Friends of the Forgotten committee, the name revision is meaningful.

"The importance of changing the name, from my perspective, is we want to keep up with the times. We want to ensure that we don't offend anyone who walks by," said Webber.

Now, his group is dedicated to restoring and memorializing the cemetery, which is the resting place for several Canadian settlers.

A previous ground penetrating radar examination showed there might be 28 graves and 19 headstones buried on the property.

The Friends of the Forgotten's long-term goal is to unearth and restore the headstones. However, no decisions can be made until the stage two and three archeological assessments are completed.

"The stage two assessment will include test pit



Town councillors, staff and residents unveil the new plaque at the Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground. RYAN BOISVERT

surveys to identify archeological features and document archeological materials. Stage three will map and recover any headstones and confirm the location of all interments," Webber said in a news release.

The cost is estimated at \$60,000 — money the committee needs in the bank before the town will secure an archeological firm to do the work.

Webber is reaching out to the community for donors to help with the project.

"We would like organiza-

tions, foundations and interested community members to become official sponsors for this important historical work by donating \$5,000 for the assessments," said Webber.

"We also encourage any and all residents to lend their support with whatever they can afford. Everyone will be recognized on our website," he added.

He's hoping to raise the money by the end of the year. Anyone looking to get involved can go to friendsoftheforgotten.ca.

The new plaque at the

cemetery was paid for by the Ontario Heritage Trust and was installed at the end of July.

It is one of four plaques announced in 2022 for major Black historic sites in the province.

"The town is grateful to the Ontario Heritage Trust for the provincial plaque program and the work they have done to expand the narrative about our heritage," Marnie Cluckie, the town's chief administrative officer, said in an email to The Lake Report.

Each plaque costs about \$11,500, Dawson Bridger from the Ontario Heritage Trust said in an email.

"These particular plaques are important for not only Niagara-on-the-Lake, but for the broader province as well. Ontario's deep and important Black history has long been overlooked," he said.

Natasha Henry and Adrienne Shadd, two prominent Black historians, wrote the plaque's descriptions and conducted the research for the background papers.

Gymnastics, ping pong and more part of new roster of kids' activities

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Kids will have a bit more to do in Niagara-on-the-Lake this fall.

The town is introducing two new children's activities after the town identified increasing recreational programming for youth as a strategic priority in July.

"I'm so excited for all that's to come. I have some kids I know that would be – are really ready for this," Coun. Adriana Vizzari, a mother of four, said at a council meeting Sept. 19.

Couns. Maria Mavridis and Nick Ruller, who both also have kids, were excited

to learn of the new children's activities.

"There are more than just seniors that live in Niagara-on-the-Lake and we need to recognize that," said Emily Kujbida, the newly hired recreation co-ordinator.

The new gymnastics classes, "Mini, Mighty, & Major Movers" will start Saturday, Oct. 14, at the NOTL Community Centre and will run until Dec. 9.

There will be three different classes for kids three to five, six to eight and nine to 12.

Classes will run for four weeks every Saturday.

The town is using money raised by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Classic Tournament to pay for some

gymnastics equipment to help get the new program off the ground.

More details about the fall program can be found on the town's website, at notl.com/recreation-events.

The second activity is Try !t NOTL, scheduled for select Friday evenings.

The program allows youth, teens, families and friends to try a new type of activity every Friday

Try !t is set to start with ping pong on Oct. 20, followed by card games, badminton, pickleball and gingerbread house making.

The new activities are pilot programs, Kujbida said.

The town hopes to build on the program after gaug-



Kevin Turcotte, Niagara-on-the-Lake's manager of parks and recreation, helps to present his department's plans for children's activities this fall. EVAN LOREE

ing the success of the fall session, she said, adding that a "proper planning strategy and proper fund-

ing" strategy is needed for children's activities.

Kevin Turcotte, the manager of parks and recre-

ation, told council there are about 932 kids enrolled in the town's schools.

"When people say there's no kids in Niagara-on-the-Lake, I think that stat right there proves everybody wrong," Turcotte said.

Moving into next year, Kujbida said the recreation department is exploring a variety of family activities, including dance, dodgeball, cooking classes and music lessons.

She said the town is also looking to introduce recreational skating, first aid and babysitting courses and lifeguarding courses.

Registration for fall activities at the community centre is open now.



Publisher: Richard Harley
Editor-In-Chief: Richard Harley
Managing Editor: Kevin MacLean
Design & Layout: Richard Harley
Advertising: Megan Vanderlee
Contributors: Dr. William Brown, Brittany Carter, Penny-Lynn Cookson, Linda Fritz, Patty Garriock, Steve Hardaker, Zahraa Hmood, Evan Loree, Brian Marshall, NOTL Museum, Ross Robinson, Julia Sacco Kyra Simone, Somer Slobodian, Tim Taylor, Jill Troyer, Dave Van de Laar, Janice White, Joanne Young and many more members of the NOTL community



If approved, would King Street condos become short-term rentals? ALPEREN ALBAYRAK

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

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada



Your Lake Report is the proud winner of 61 national and provincial awards for journalism and advertising excellence.



Contributed by Patty Garriock

“Be happy with being you. Love your flaws. Own your quirks. And know that you are just as perfect as anyone else, exactly as you are.” - Ariana Grande

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Email:
 Letters: editor@niagaranow.com
 Story Ideas: editor@niagaranow.com
 Advertising: advertising@niagaranow.com
Phone
 Newsroom: 905-359-2270
 Advertising Department: 905-932-5646
Office Address
 496 Mississauga St., NOTL, Ontario, Canada.
Mailing Address
 PO Box 724, Niagara-on-the-Lake, L0S1J0
Have a lead on a story?
 Call 905.359.2270 or send an email to editor@niagaranow.com

Editorial Preserving NOTL's historic past

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

Niagara-on-the-Lake is a town steeped in history. In fact, we honestly wonder if any other community of similar size can boast nearly as many connections to significant historical events and individuals.

We think not. The stories can, and do, literally fill books. From being Upper Canada's first capital, to Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock and the War of 1812, to Laura Secord's famous walk, to Indigenous roots that run long and deep, the Underground Railroad and stands taken against slavery, Fort George, Fort Mississauga and numerous associated military sites, significant burial grounds, historic Old Town plus St. Davids and Queenston, the clock tower cenotaph and the dozens of commemorative plaques around town that help us remember.

And, of course, that list barely scratches the surface. Thanks to forward-thinking history-keepers like Janet Carnochan and to all those who came after her, who recognized the importance of remembering, collecting and cataloguing the past, Niagara-on-the-Lake has a museum that is the envy of many other communities.

Through its collection and its programs it keeps history



A rendering of the NOTL Museum's expansion project. SUPPLIED

relevant and vital. Tucked away on Castlereagh Street in Old Town, where it is led by the visionary Sarah Kaufman, the museum is bursting at the proverbial seams.

Its long-awaited expansion plans, envisioned by Kaufman for a decade or more, are now moving ahead.

The construction of a large new two-storey exhibits building and addition of a basement under historic Memorial Hall are two of the key components of the Building History: Strengthening Community campaign. It all will mean more display space and more storage for the museum's burgeoning collection, better accessibility for all visitors.

This is no small potatoes project. It's a \$10-million expansion and revitalization, one of the largest such undertakings in town in recent memory.

As Kaufman summed it up: "I think that we have a world-class town and we have world-class residents that live here and I think they deserve a museum that is fitting for them."

Half of the money will come from government grants, but the other half needs to be raised by the community.

Fittingly, the historical society, which runs the museum, to lead the campaign has turned to a resident with an exceptional track record for community building.

Sean Simpson is a well-known NOTL pharmacist,

but aside from that, whether it's helping with kids sports, supporting local charities, leading the United Way or many other endeavours, he has led by example when it comes to the community he calls home.

His task is a tough one – to help the museum raise \$5 million over the next year or two or three.

That's a big ask of small community, but we are confident that, as they have shown before, the individuals and businesses of Niagara-on-the-Lake recognize the significance of this special town and will step up to help preserve our history.

After all, how many other towns can boast such a storied and colourful past? It is well worth preserving.

editor@niagaranow.com

ENJOY SOME SUMMER LOVN' UNTIL THANKSGIVING IN NOTL

Ruffino's PASTA BAR & GRILL

10% LOCALS DISCOUNT

BRING THIS LAKE REPORT AD FOR 10% OFF YOUR ENTIRE BILL

MONDAY - THURSDAY #LOVELOCAL #SUPPORTLOCAL #UPTOWNNOTL #RIDE55

BAR  **BEA**

wine shop & snack bar



Greenbelt preserved but more **accountability** needed



Wayne Gates
Special to The Lake Report

For the past year, as your MPP, I have been making my voice heard for our community on protecting the Greenbelt.

But I haven't been alone.

I was joined in my calls on the importance of protecting our natural heritage, biodiversity and agricultural lands by countless community activists, engaged citizens, farmers, workers, area business owners and young

people, including Niagara-on-the-Lake environmental expert and activist, Owen Bjorgan.

Now, our advocacy has paid off – as Premier Doug Ford announced he will be reversing his decision on opening up the Greenbelt for development.

Firstly, I want to thank the people of Niagara-on-the-Lake, and across Ontario, for making their voices heard.

Every single person who wrote to the government, called an office, held up a sign at a protest, spoke to their local representative, or shared on social media – you played a role in getting this accomplished.

We know how important the Greenbelt is to Niagara-on-the-Lake – for countless reasons.

Protecting ecosystems

within the Greenbelt benefits our agricultural land – this means the Greenbelt is key to preserving our local food supply and to a thriving agricultural industry.

We also know the role of forests and wetlands in the escarpment provide free flood protections, erosion control, cooling and recreational value for the community.

So much of original ecosystems in southern Ontario have already been lost. We cannot jeopardize losing any more because doing so harms the quality of our air, soil, water and more.

Of course, a thriving and healthy environment is key to protecting our farms, wine industry and unique natural heritage. Tearing up the Greenbelt to make developers rich would have had an irreversibly negative

impact on our economy.

While we know we have a crisis in housing, the solution has never been to tear up precious ecosystems – and we know this wasn't about building affordable housing. It was about benefiting well-connected developers.

I am thrilled at the victory for our community in restoring protections for the Greenbelt – but we still have work to do at Queen's Park.

Firstly, as much as the premier would like to put this scandal behind him, we need to ensure this is fully investigated.

There are still many questions to be answered about the knowledge of and role the premier played in the corruption, as he has now had two cabinet ministers and a high-ranking staff member resign in the wake

of this controversy.

The people of Ontario deserve full transparency. And while this is a big victory, there are still other elements of the premier's agenda that require scrutiny.

The government is still fighting nurses and front-line health care staff in court over Bill 124. It is still putting forward privatization of public health care services with Bill 60.

There are questions over potential changes the province will make to local governments. And as the official Opposition critic for long-term care, I am firmly committed to fixing that broken system.

Finally, I am focused on getting good things done for our local community as I continue to work with town staff and the Ministry of Health to get nurse practi-

tioner services back in our community.

I also have put forward legislation to eliminate unfair taxes on local wines to help support the industry here in Niagara. And while much progress has been made, I will continue to work to get the south Niagara hospital built as soon as possible.

Much work remains to be done – but by coming together as a community, we can get so much good work accomplished for Niagara-on-the-Lake. I remain committed to working with all levels of government for the betterment of our community.

Wayne Gates is the provincial New Democrat member for Niagara Falls riding, which includes Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie.

Letter of the Week

Effort of entire community made **Terry Fox Run** a success

Dear editor:

Perfect weather and a beautiful setting at Simcoe Park brought out many eager participants to support the Terry Fox Run and to remember later firefighter Mike Vriens.

Thank you to The Lake Report for your meaningful coverage of the event and to Niagara-on-the-Lake's Jacob Graham for capturing special moments on a video.

Many dedicated volunteers continue to make this fundraiser a success by helping with registration, acting as a marshal along the route, handing out certificates, selling shirts and displaying all the photos. We couldn't do it without each of you.

Huge thanks to Juliet Dunn, who led us in the warm ups prior to the run, Lucas Pillitteri for acknowledging the land on which we live, and Leo and Sophia Pillitteri for waving the Canadian flag while Juliet sang the national anthem.

Joe Pillitteri gathered the participants closer to express his dedication to



Juliet Dunn helps lead warm ups at the Simcoe Park bandshell prior to the 2023 Terry Fox Run. SUPPLIED

the foundation. His goal, as captain of Team Pillsy, is to raise \$1 million by 2025.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa started the runners, walkers and bikers on the five-kilometre route.

Thanks to Walkers Fruit Market and Quiet Acres for providing fresh fruit and to Peter Gill for donating cases of water.

Thank you to all the participants who so generously supported Terry's dream of a cancer-free world.

Take pride in knowing that your personal contribution to Terry's legacy makes this world a better place. Terry said if every Canadian gave \$1 they would be part of the Mara-

thon of Hope.

Andrew Niven, director of marketing at Konzelmann Estate Winery, was instrumental in getting several wineries on board to support the Terry Fox Foundation from Sept. 11 to 17 by asking anyone who made a purchase to donate \$1.

The spirit of giving continues in our community thanks to Andrew and the following wineries:

Konzelmann, Pillitteri, Riverview, Jackson-Triggs, Chateau des Charmes, Marynissen, DeSimone, Palatine, Trius, Gretzky, Peller, Lakeview, Queenston Mile, Ironwood and Shiny.

*Joan King
Terry Fox Run*

Excess tourism brings many **destructive** elements with it

Dear editor:

I wanted to express my total agreement with the extremely well-thought out letter from Lydia Madonia, ("Over-tourism, development could hurt NOTL," Sept. 21).

Her points about the consequences of over-tourism have already been validated by the protests of such famous destinations as Barcelona and Venice.

These places may be in a different class than

Niagara-on-the-Lake but nonetheless prove the point that tourism brings many unwanted and downright destructive elements with it when it becomes overwhelming.

Too many souvenir shops, ice cream stores and expensive hotels can certainly cause visitors to eventually become disenchanted with a town.

Assessing how many is too many must surely be the responsibility of our elected

officials and planning department. Can more and more hotels with \$400 and \$500-plus per night rooms really be filled?

Priorities should be given to making this town a desirable, planned community where older people, young families and singles can all be provided with residential services like medical, transport and local retail before random development.

*Ann Handels
NOTL*

We need **more speed cameras**, not fewer

Dear editor:

I have never understood why some people think that speed cameras are a money grab, ("Speed camera near Virgil school is just a cash grab," Letter, Sept. 21).

A money grab would be an unnecessary law introduced only to trap the unsuspecting.

In this case, however, the law has been introduced to save lives.

The speed limits are clear. You may agree with them or not but you have to follow them.

The region has to monitor the speed limits. Cameras automate the monitoring process and thus save us the cost of having a person do it.

They also make sure that no one can speed in that zone.

If we are OK with the speed limit why would we object to the cost-efficient monitoring of it?

It follows there is another reason and it must be that some people want to be able to speed but not get caught.



This happens on the roads around here all the time, as we well know, even with the speed limits – which means we need more cameras not fewer.

*Jackie Bonic
NOTL*



S O K O
bakery cafe

Korean-themed bakery & cafe
roll cakes | scones | pastries | buns
coffee | tea | smoothies

358 Mary St. | 289-241-7789 | sokobakerycafe.square.site



A home, a couple and a sense of place





Brian Marshall
Columnist

When I first began writing the Arch-i-text series back in 2018, my intent was to make this column a place wherein the character of Niagara-on-the-Lake's community, reflected in its built heritage and shared values, would be celebrated, protected and enhanced.

More than half a decade later, I believe that the column has consistently fulfilled those parameters.

What I did not anticipate, but am extremely gratified by, is the extent to which the Arch-i-text's weekly message would resonate with other folks who call Niagara-on-the-Lake home.

Every week I receive expressions of encouragement, sometimes spoken and in other cases written, from The Lake Report readers – all of which I profoundly appreciate.

Another blessing conferred through this column has been to meet, chat with and often tour the fine homes of people who are justifiably proud of their part in the warp and weave which makes this town unique.

So it was that last week I was invited to sit down with Erika and Jim Alexander, a powerful couple who have consistently contributed to this community since the 1960s, in their home on King Street.

Now, I freely admit to being rather excited by their invitation, since I had been curious about this house for years: a 20th-century build imbued with an exquisite sense of place that reflects and enhances NOTL's prevailing built character.

But, until I crossed its threshold and met the Alexanders, I had no idea just how great a treasure their home represented.



Columnist Brian Marshall says this 20th century house displays a true "sense of place" in NOTL's architectural fabric.

Nearly immediately after our mutual introductions, Jim asked me what I thought of the home's design.

After replying that I liked it, he went on to explain that there had been considerable resistance to it from a neighbour who believed that no new house should draw upon traditional designs, forms and elements out of fear that it may, somehow, detract from actual historic architecture.

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

Jim indicated that he and Erika had come across and fallen in love with the design during one of their vacations. They were determined to build it here in NOTL as their new home.

Jim smiled at me and said, “I simply told him that great design should never be limited to a period of time but,

rather, only by appropriateness to a sense of place.”

A sentiment with which I completely agree.

He went on to explain that they had built an R-2000 house before most people “knew what that was.”

Then, he continued by explaining that principally the only “new” materials involved in its construction were the 2x4s used in the double framing and the cement foundation.

And that is the second fundamental point of departure down the path they took to create a very special residence.

About the time of their build, the town was seeking to have the brick outbuilding that had been an original part of the King Street courthouse (sic. Our Western Home) demolished.

Jim won the tender on this undertaking and, instead of hauling all the debris away, saved and cleaned each usable brick.

It was these 19th-century bricks which were re-laid as the exterior wall cladding.

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

The flawless white oak

used in their cabinetry, for example, had been milled down into flat boards (a technique Jim had to figure out) from the staves of expired wine barrels obtained from Brights Winery.

“As we sat having coffee in their living room, I was struck by their past and ongoing commitment to the tapestry of this town.”

Floors, ceilings, beams and joinery of all types were crafted by Jim from largely old growth wood that had served in a previous purpose.

Which brings us to a third point of departure along their path.

Both Erika and Jim are artists and superb crafts persons and their talents are expressed in every part of this build.

Erika's stunning stained glass art decorates nearly every window augmenting the subtle arts and crafts feel of the interior anchored in Jim's craftsmanship –

skills developed by working on historic projects across the province.

With its traditional gambrel cedar shake roof set off by a triple row of fishscale shingles, the reclaimed brick cladding that features herringbone inserts below the windows, and its timbered framing, the gestalt is a tour de force at the top of King Street, rightfully claiming a special place in the built heritage of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

But, with the Alexanders, it is not solely about their achievement in this build, for they both have contributed selflessly and continually to the community in which they've been a part.

As we sat having coffee in their living room, I was struck by their past and ongoing commitment to the tapestry of this town.

Amongst other things, they have both been actively involved in the Friends of Fort George ever since it was organized in 1987.

They were a driving force in the community group that established Rye Heritage Park on the grounds associated with the 1817 courthouse (that later became Maria Rye's Our Western Home).

They were founding members of the local Rotary Club and active fund-raisers for a wide variety of projects. And the list goes on.

Consider the fact that Jim was a long-term volunteer on the town's Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, not only serving alongside of notables like Don Chapman and Peter Stokes, but also taking the leadership role as Chair during several terms.

Jim recounted several successful examples of advisory committee's recommendations during his tenure before recalling one particular undertaking in detail.

You see, the committee's eminently qualified members could not understand why NOTL's historic district was so circumscribed and did not align with the boundaries of what is now the National Historic District.

Not content to accept the status quo, this committee conducted the research required, justified the district expansion, then submitted for council approval a full and complete written recommendation to that end.

That it failed to receive council approval was not due to any shortcoming in their work or the written submission, but solely a result of political considerations by the councillors at that time (incidentally the same considerations - I am told - which had restricted the original boundaries of the Queen-Picton Historic District in 1986).

That said, the committee and the Alexanders soldiered on because one loss could not negate their commitment to the community at large.

In the past, I have called upon each and every one of us who live in Niagara-on-the-Lake to get personally involved in the preservation and betterment of our town.

Otherwise, there are vested interests who will step into the gap.

In Erika and Jim Alexander, we have an example to emulate.

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



PREMIERE INDIAN CUISINE IN NOTL

RESTAURANT & BAR OPEN FOR DINING AND TAKEOUT
CHECK OUT OUR NEW LUNCH MENU ON OUR WEBSITE

233 King St. | 905-468-7222 | Menu: auraonthelake.ca



10% discount for Local Patrons



Developer disagrees with columnist's viewpoints

Dear editor:

I occasionally read Brian Marshall's Arch-i-Text column. It sometimes consists of fabricated nonsense, so I don't take it too seriously.

However, it occurred to me that by sharing his incorrect opinions in the media, there might be people who mistakenly consider him an expert on par with qualified professionals.

It seems he has bestowed upon himself a title, creating his own qualifications. So, what exactly is an architectural design/heritage consultant anyway?

From what I can gather, it's merely a made-up label that one adds to present themselves as an expert. Mr. Marshall isn't a certified architect and as far as I can tell has no current professional qualification.

Creating your own credentials doesn't qualify you as an architect or planner, in terms of constructing or critiquing buildings or projects. He appears to have little knowledge about planning and much of what he writes is either incorrect or exaggerated.

He recently suggested a minor variance is simply a matter of distinguishing between large and small



The Phillips Estate is the subject of a hotel proposal from Hummel Properties. EVAN LOREE

numbers, when in reality, it has nothing to do with quantity. It is merely a term used to describe a specific type or classification.

He also exaggerated that our proposed hotel's height exceeds the bylaw by "approximately 60 per cent," when the actual figure is 50 per cent.

Although that number also exceeds the bylaw, it is also well below the current planning guidelines for Ontario.

Town staff are challenged with having to use the community's official plan and zoning bylaws, which fail to meet the criteria set by policies of higher levels of government. This may explain why the town has lost nearly every hearing at the Ontario Municipal Board

(OMB, LPAT or OLT) in the past 25 years.

However, I must express my gratitude to Mr. Marshall for inadvertently creating a conflict for town council.

As a member of the municipal heritage committee, he shared his opinion in a public forum and seems to have already made up his mind about the application without even considering its specific details.

This could demonstrate a pre-existing bias and create a serious challenge when presenting evidence at a land tribunal hearing. I believe it leaves the appearance the process was tainted by a committee that provided prejudiced guidance, making it difficult to defend at a hearing.

In regards to Mr. Marshall's unfair criticism of Coun. Erwin Wiens in his Aug. 17 column ("Questions about role of town's urban design committee"), he is incorrect on some of his observations related to the urban design committee.

The committee is advisory to council and staff, and its terms of reference, state: "The committee does not have the authority to approve or refuse applications or make policy decisions. The committee provides an additional level of consultation to enhance the town's approval process."

Furthermore, official plan policy 10.4, which Mr. Marshall cites in this article, refers to a market study being required for new or expanded retail developments with a commercial floor area greater than 900 square metres (about 9,600 square feet).

Benny Marotta's application is for a hotel, which is not a retail use and that is probably why the planning department did not require a market study. Clearly, it appears this author did not check the wording of policy 10.4 before criticizing our diligent staff.

The writer further inaccurately describes the changes under Bill 23 by saying it only applies to residential rezoning applications and that the "very, very tight" timeline in question is actually two years long. The tight timelines were established under Bill 109, not Bill 23.

He is wrong because the Planning Act requires council to make a decision on an official plan or zoning amendment within 120 days, not two years. Furthermore, developers will get their application fees refunded if not processed under the timelines.

Keep in mind when you read Mr. Marshall's opinions that he lacks professional qualifications and expertise beyond a layman's awareness.

Elevating his thoughts to the same level as those who are held to higher standards by their professional colleges is an insult to the hard work and dedication those experts have put in.

After all, opinions are the least valuable form of human knowledge; they require no accountability or genuine understanding.

**Rainer Hummel
NOTL**

Thunderhawks appreciate The Lake Report's lacrosse coverage

Dear editor:

Thank you for all of the articles in The Lake Report this summer highlighting our Niagara-on-the-Lake lacrosse teams.

After many years of the lacrosse board at the Virgil arena sitting empty, we have finally been able to post articles and photos for visitors to the arena to see.

I was so proud of our community newspaper when your support was highlighted in a conversation among some members of the board of directors for the Ontario Lacrosse Association.

Parents from every single Niagara Thunderhawks team had parents commenting this year about how much their child loved seeing the articles you published and many parents said they saved extra copies of each issue.

Thank you so much from all of the moms and dads in the Niagara Thunderhawks family.

**Tracey Hope
St. Davids**

Over-tourism has put NOTL on life support

Dear editor:

I entirely agree with the article by letter writer Lydia Madonia, ("Over-tourism, development could hurt NOTL," Sept. 21).

Her concerns with respect to over-tourism in my opinion may be understated.

I have written on several occasions how over-tourism will be the death of our Old Town and heritage district.

This patient is nearing a life-support situation.

Tourists have already voiced their opinions about our high service prices and historical parking problems.

The latter goes back almost 50 years. Additional parking meters in front of one's home never increase your property value. They're an eyesore.

Have we learned anything from other world tourist destinations ruined by over-tourism, the latest being Mount Fuji in Japan. I strongly proclaim the answer is no.

Procrastination on a number of major infrastructure issues, parking being one, has caught up with us. We

are playing defence on over-tourism.

Yet the Chamber of Commerce, our town council and tourism board are hell bent on attracting even more traffic to Queen Street etc., which on weekends is an elbow-to-elbow pedestrian contact sport and an absolute zoo.

The question for the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake is: are we better off today than we were four, 10, 15 or 20 years ago?

We have lost the town to over-tourism, lost critical infrastructure like our hospital, high school, Parliament Oak and even our X-ray facilities (forcing us to travel to St. Catharines or Niagara Falls for the simplest of scans), but we see our property taxes increasing at an unaffordable rate to support the tourism industry.

Present us, the resident taxpayers, with a compelling argument that Queen Street pedestrian traffic and our residential street parking is not already at capacity on the weekends.

**Samuel Young
NOTL**

Speed cameras are tools for managing bad drivers

Dear editor:

Regarding the Sept. 21 letter to the editor, "Speed camera near Virgil school is just a cash grab," we believe it is not a cash grab but rather a great tool to manage bad drivers.

Quite the opposite of a cash grab, due to the punitive nature of fines, speed cameras with automatic ticketing are the only tools to ensure safe speed limits are respected.

Adherence to speed limits without enforcement measures is continually ignored.

Speeding through many neighbourhoods in Niagara-on-the-Lake remains a

perpetual issue, not only jeopardizing the safety of pedestrians, pets and wildlife, but also creating excessive noise and disturbing the peace.

Our observations are that speeding in Niagara-on-the-Lake occurs mainly by town residents, repeatedly.

Speed cameras would not distract tourism in any way. In fact, tourists should welcome managed driving in small towns as would the residents.

It ensures safety and peacefulness as speed cameras would mean valuable police resources could be directed to issues that actually

need police intervention.

These cameras are not an extraordinary initiative but a necessary one to manage disrespectful driving. Speed cameras and speed bumps will surely mitigate this perpetual disrespect.

In fact, the cameras would be useful all around town, not just in the designated community safety zones.

We do not understand why the Town of NOTL will not at least try even temporary speed bumps in neighbourhoods to try to manage this problem.

Is everyone aware that although speed minders are placed around town to

educate drivers, the town often limits the display to not exceed 69 km/h, even though drivers are passing by at much higher speeds?

The reason given for this deliberate lower calibration is that some drivers will test the speed minders to see how high a number they can record.

It seems so obvious that these are the individuals who will only change their irresponsible driving behaviour by being issued repeated fines, losing points and possibly having their insurance premiums increase.

**Diane and Rob Fahlman
NOTL**

Indoor pool is important for many age groups

Dear editor:

So, letter writer Buddy Andres ("Indoor pool group needs a reality check," Sept. 21), thinks that an indoor pool owned and operated by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake would be too expensive and we (old ladies) need a "reality check."

Our recurrent petition was launched as NOTL residents have been excluded from

paid membership in the Vintage Inns' indoor pools (the only such indoor pools in town).

As one "hockey dad" mused, "How come that NOTL can afford two hockey rinks but no indoor pool?"

I think NOTL is trying to attract young families to town and an indoor pool with swimming lessons and

water safety is an important incentive.

One excuse is that there is a scarcity of lifeguards.

At least one older teen in NOTL travels to St. Catharines as a lifeguard as work is available there year-round, not just in the summer months.

Niagara-on-the-Lake is surrounded by water and we boast of much boating

activity.

I think that swimming instruction is necessary and water safety important for all of us.

So, please Mr. Andres, sign our petition and help us raise money to complement our tax money for an indoor pool for all of us. Sign up at notlindoorpool@gmail.com.

**Elizabeth Oliver-Malone
NOTL**

NEWS

Kids sprint for family and friends at Crossroads school's Terry Fox Run

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The spirit of persistence and compassion were fully on display at Crossroads Public School this past Friday during the annual Terry Fox Run.

When The Lake Report arrived early last Friday morning, 12 and 13-year-old students were helping their younger peers find their stride.

Or not, as some of the older students gave piggy-back rides to the younger ones.

"Terry Fox really gave a lot of people all over the world motivation to like keep pushing," said 13-year-old Kayla Steed.

Kayla was running for three people this year:

an aunt and two family friends.

Kayla said her friend Riley and aunt Judy both died of cancer.

Her aunt was 43 and Riley was 13 when they died.

Mackenzie, another friend, died of suicide.

"It was really tough because growing up she was also my neighbour. She was a family friend," Kayla said.

Terry Fox's determination in his Marathon of Hope – of which he completed 5,373 kilometres before his spreading cancer forced him to prematurely end the run – reminded Kayla of the endurance needed to survive the struggles of cancer and depression.

Madison Dubroy was running this year for her grandmother, Darlene, who



Emily Miarecki gives Samantha Jones a piggy back ride during the Crossroads Terry Fox Run. EVAN LOREE

survived a bout of cancer.

Twelve-year old Dubroy said she couldn't remember the type of cancer her grandmother beat.

Her friend Rachel Falk, age 11, said she was also running for Madison's grandmother.

Emily Josiak was there running for her neighbour, Vic, who she said had died

of lung cancer.

"He did not - sadly - make it through," 12-year-old Emily said.

Emily said her neighbour used to visit her family almost every day.

Ruby Krake, a Grade 8 teacher at Crossroads, told The Lake Report the run had been organized by the senior students this year.

Queenston Heights hosts party for Brock's birthday

Staff
The Lake Report

The team at Brock's Monument is inviting everyone to join them on Oct. 6 to celebrate the life of the hero of Upper Canada: Major-General Sir Isaac Brock, born 254 years ago.

"This event provides us with a unique opportunity to focus on the life of Brock, and the contributions that he made as head of the civil government and military," said Amanda Gamble, executive director of the Friends of Fort George in a media release.

This will cover the history leading up to the War of 1812 and Brock's legacy



The Friends of Fort George will celebrate Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock's birthday on Oct. 6. FILE

after his death at the Battle of Queenston Heights.

The event, to be hosted at Queenston Heights, will start at 10 a.m. with a special presentation on Brock's life with a feature talk by Scott Finlay, birthday cupcakes at 10:45 a.m. (pro-

vided by one of the Friends of Fort George's members) and lesson in the history of Brock's Monument and the mark Brock left after his death, with a feature talk by Gamble.

Entrance to this birthday celebration is \$10 per person.

Space is limited, so those interested are asked to book their spot online at friendsoffortgeorge.square.site.

The Friends of Fort George are also running a special donation drive in honour of the late hero: they're looking to raise \$1,769 to honour Brock's birthday, as Brock was born on Oct. 6, 1769.

All the proceeds will help support student employment opportunities. Those interested can follow along and help them reach their goal at canadahelps.org/en/dn/64588.

The Queenston Heights National Historic Site is located at 14184 Niagara River Pkwy.

LIDA KOWAL
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT

1627 Niagara Stone Rd., Unit B2
Virgil, ON L0S 1T0
905-468-5300
Monday to Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

LIDA KOWAL
MBA, CPA, CMA

*Accounting *Taxation *Business Services *Estate Planning

HIGH ARCTIC LIGHT : Janet Read

Oct. 3-29, 2023
247 Ricardo Street, NOTL
Opening Reception
OCT. 15, 2:00-4:00 PM

Niagara Pumphouse
Arts Centre
niagarapumphouse.ca

Congregation comes together to welcome Moderator at Grace United

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

The Moderator of the United Church of Canada is only able to visit a dozen or so of the church's 2,700 congregations across the country every year – and Grace United was one of them.

As part of the congregation's 200th anniversary celebration, Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne gave a sermon during last church's Sunday service, touching on pressing issues and themes in the faith community.

"We have these congregations all across the country that have declining memberships and declining resources and that's true of religion all across Canada, not just the United Church of Canada," Lansdowne told The Lake Report later.

"I preached on the story from Exodus of the Manna and the Quail and how God provides for us and wishes for us to have life in abundance and to leave space to be surprised by God's gifts."

Pauline Miller, chair of the church council, said that while numbers may be dwindling, celebrations like the bicentennial bring out the strong community at Grace United.

"Everybody that comes is committed. They give 150 per cent," Miller said.

"The joke is that the first Sunday you're here, the following Sunday you're probably gonna be hit up for some committees," she said.

Sunday's bicentennial celebration has been in the works all year, along with



Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne. SUPPLIED

other commemorative activities led by organizer Bill Leighfield.

Lansdowne travelled to Niagara-on-the-Lake from Toronto on Sunday morning, but lives in Coquitlam, B.C., and is often travelling all over the world.

"I'm usually attending regional and partnership events. I've attended two of the national gatherings on unmarked burials for residential school graves. I attended the World Council of Churches general assembly in Germany last summer," Lansdowne said.

She cited Youth Climate Motivators and a National Book Club among many initiatives taken on by the United Church.

Miller added Lansdowne's sermon tied in beautifully with the church's hopes to include the Indigenous population.

"It was 90 years ago last week that there was a Moderator from the United Church that spoke here, so I guess it happens once a century," Miller said.

On Grace United's actual anniversary date of Nov. 19, the past moderator will attend to provide another celebratory sermon.

BILLYBUSH // YARD RESCUE
Certified Gardener / Greens Keeper

FREE ESTIMATES
Call or text 289.969.1527

- Small tree and shrub removal
- Superior trimming & pruning
- Senior discounts

ALLSPARK ELECTRICAL SOLUTIONS INC.

Scott Davidson, M.E.
RR3 750 East-West Line
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
L0S 1J0

Cell: 905-933-3974
allspark.scott@gmail.com

Residential, Commercial and Industrial Automation

License No. 7010341

CAUGHILL AutoMotive

NAPA

BRAKE SERVICE
\$49.95 (PARTS EXTRA)

QUALITY SERVICE
FAST EFFICIENT RELIABLE
905-687-9456

256 EAST & WEST LINE, NOTL

Beekeeping program benefits prized pollinators – and Red Roof Retreat

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Red Roof Retreat was a hive of activity during last Thursday's honey extraction demonstration.

The Host a Hive program, run by Niagara Beeway, has about 40 hives places across Niagara — two of them on Red Roof Retreat's 11-acre property in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

This initiative, born partially out of the recent phenomenon of declining bee populations in North America, looks to disperse hives across the Niagara region, building them in a variety of locations with less risks to the bees.

The two hives at Red Roof Retreat are sponsored by the Goettler Family Foundation.

This is the second year for the Host a Hive program, and it's been very successful, said Sandra Ozkur, the communications manager for Niagara Beeway.

"We've asked people to sponsor these hives, so they actually pay to sponsor the hives on their property and we provide the beekeeping service and the honey extraction," said Ozkur.

The frames from the bee supers, which resemble square boxes, were removed to begin the extraction process.

The supers sit on top of the beehives and are used to store the bee's honey. Each super has upwards of 10 frames inside.

Before the frames can be put into the spinner, the wax



George Scott, left, helps Josh, a Red Roof Retreat client, spin the honey. RYAN BOISVERT

needed to be separated from the honey using a knife.

The wax is saved and can be used for other projects — like candle making.

The frames then went into a large metal spinner, where it was spun by hand.

"What happens is, the honey flies out and sticks on the wall, and it goes down, and then it comes out here when we're ready to open it up," said George Scott, president of Niagara Beeway, as he pointed to the nozzle out of which the honey will eventually flow.

The honey runs through two filters: the first one removes any lost bees that accidentally fell in and the second one turns the honey into a more liquid state and removes any unwanted extras that the first filter didn't catch.

Doing a public honey extraction not only educates people, but it also provides a great sensory experience for the clients at Red Roof Retreat, said Steffanie Bjorgan, the retreat's founder and executive director.

Red Roof Retreat provides recreational services

to children and young adults with special needs.

Clients received some honey to take home and even had the opportunity to practice spinning.

"We came up with the idea of doing on site extraction so that we can educate people about the entire process, especially children who may not really know where honey even comes," said Ozkur.

It's a great thing to be a part of, said Bjorgan.

By placing hives on private properties across Niagara, Niagara Beeway is able to monitor and collect data on the locations that are working, and the ones that aren't.

Spreading hives across Niagara also provides more pollination to a neighbourhood and provides a safe space for honey bee colonies.

"Within five kilometres of your hives, you're providing neighbourhood pollination services," said Ozkur.

It's crucial that the hives are put on properties that are not used as commercial farms, said Scott, so that the

bees have limited exposure to pesticides.

"Pesticides are by far the number one reason we're losing insects," he said.

He said this includes everyday pesticides homeowners use and keep in the house.

If there are 75 houses in a neighbourhood and each house has a one litre bottle of insecticide, that's 75 litres, he estimated.

"The host of Hive is trying to find neighbourhoods that don't do that, where it's safe for bees. That's where we put the bees," he said.

However, pesticides aren't the only threat to Niagara's bees, said Scott.

This summer's unusual weather has also played a big role in honey production this year, he said.

"Our honey production this year is 50 per cent less than it was last year, where we made five gallons, we made two and a half gallons," said Scott.

He encourages anyone interested in hosting a hive on their property to go to niagarabeeway.com/host-a-hive.html.



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: "D" NATURE OF THINGS

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

Last issue:

Category: **HAVING A BALL**

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

Answer: **What is a widget?**

Answered first by: **Margie Enns**

Also answered correctly (in order) by: **Claudia Grimwood, Bill Hamilton, Bob Wheatley, Lynda Collet, Pam Dowling, Jim Dandy, Al Brockway, Wade Durling, Marjory Walker-Barone, Kirstyn Smith, Katie Reimer, Mike Gander, Catherine Clarke, Jane Morris, Sheila Meloche, Norm Paraschuk**

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

Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com, with your name, for a chance to win a \$25 Irish Harp Pub gift card every week. (Subject line: Riddle me this)

Love games? Join us for fun events every week at the Irish Harp Pub.
Details at www.theirishharppub.com

D-Handyman Services
"Pass me the Job Jar, enjoy your spare time."
289-929-hanD (4263)
d.handyman.denis@gmail.com
PO Box 1088
Virgil, Ontario
LOS 1T0
Denis Curtis
Proprietor
<http://dencurtis.wix.com/d-handyman>




Pilates & Yoga with Suzy NOTL

Pilates Mat:
Tuesday 11:30am
Thursday 10am

Yin Yoga:
Tuesday 1pm

\$20

Call 416-432-9954 or visit suzylebec.com



GRACE UNITED CHURCH
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ONTARIO
222 VICTORIA ST. 905-468-4044

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
www.graceunitedchurch.com
Our 200th anniversary | 1823-2023



Pauline Reimer Gibson is an Audiologist with over 20 years of experience who loves helping people of all ages in the community.

Book a complimentary hearing test today at 905.468.9176

504 Line 2 Road, Virgil ON

Pauline Reimer Gibson
Audiologist

A global leader in hearing healthcare.




BEST QUALITY
SERVING NIAGARA SINCE 2013

BASEMENT BUILDERS

tyler@oldtowncr.ca
www.oldtowncr.ca
(289) 686-7363

IF YOU DREAM IT, WE BUILD IT

THEATRE ROOMS & HOME GYMS ♦
SECRET ROOMS & MAN CAVES ♦
SUANAS & STEAM SHOWERS ♦
RENTALS, B&B & AIRBNB ♦
AND MORE! ♦

 @SUPERIORBASEMENTBUILDERS
 SUPERIOR BASEMENT BUILDERS



J&S CONSTRUCTION

PUTTING NIAGARA RESIDENTS FIRST!

Renovations • Additions
Custom Homes • Kitchens
Decks, Fences & much more!

289-697-5757 | JS-CONSTRUCTION.CA




Pedal Pushers fight ‘pandemic of loneliness’ for palliative patients

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Life with a serious illness takes a toll on more than just the body, says Jodey Porter.

Her husband, Ben Buholtz, suffered a stroke in 2022 and is now working through rehabilitation.

Constant medical attention is important, Porter says, but so is having people to visit him every now and then – to avoid what she calls a “pandemic of loneliness.”

“(Loneliness) kills people, not just mentally but physically. After you have an incident like Ben’s, so many people become shut-ins in long-term care with nobody to see them,” Porter said.

Providing a compassionate community for patients like Buholtz – people who don’t need hospital care but haven’t been diagnosed with a terminal illness – was the motivator behind NOTL Community Palliative Care’s annual fundraiser held on Saturday, the Healing Cycle Ride.

Participants cycled or walked the route in



Ben Buholtz led the pack during Saturday’s Hummel Family Healing Cycle challenge, during which walkers and cyclists like the Pedal Pushers completed the trek in support of NOTL Palliative Care’s new program, named in Buholtz’s honour. As of Monday, the ride had raised \$46,000. JULIA SACCO

Niagara-on-the-Lake, starting at the former hospital site in Old Town, with the option of a 5K, 10K or 25K route that circled back to the starting point.

This year’s fundraiser, known as the Pedal Pushers Challenge, was about supporting the organization’s new program, Ben’s Compassionate Community (in honour of Buholtz).

Bonnie Bagnulo, the palliative care team’s executive director, said this program aims to help people such as Buholtz, whose situations are unique in a key way.

“Ben is not somebody who needs to be in the hospital. But he’s also not somebody with a palliative diagnosis: he’s sort of in the middle,” Bagnulo said.

She said the new program is about providing aid at the onset of a serious, life-changing illness and providing care to as many people as possible.

“They were there during the hardest times,” Buholtz said about the palliative care team.

The program will fund a staff member to train volunteers to provide regular visits

to those in this situation.

“This is about reaching those people in our community who get forgotten, pushed aside, get neglected,” she said.

As of Monday morning, \$46,900 had been raised for the new palliative care program. Bagnulo said the Hummel family will match donations up to \$25,000 this year.

Porter extended her gratitude for the team’s services and for allowing a platform for Buholtz to share his story.

“He’s a beneficiary in terms of having a visitor and that’s very beautiful. For people to volunteer, to fund it and to understand it. It’s hard to understand something like this without a story,” she said.

Call the brand that gets your home

NOTICED!



NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

404 Line 2 Road
4 Bedroom • 2 Bath • \$1,374,900



NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

10 ACRES
662 Line 4 Road
3 Bedroom • 1 Bath • \$998,900



ST. DAVIDS

25 Kenmir Avenue
3 Bedroom • 4 Bath • \$1,799,900

- #1 Real Estate Team**
- #1 on Google Trends***
- #1 in Client Service***
- #1 in Web Traffic***

- #1 RE/MAX Team Canada†
- #2 RE/MAX Team Worldwide†
- #2 on Toronto Real Estate Board**
- Million-dollar marketing system!

Rob Golfi SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Born, raised and living in Niagara and loving it!

FREE HOME EVALUATION!



Call **905-641-0308**
or visit **RobGolfi.com**

GOLFI
TEAM

*Rob Golfi, Sales Representative. **Based on unit sales and \$ volume of closed transactions in RAHB Jan 1, 2020 - Dec 31, 2021. *** Source: Google Trends and Google Reviews †Source: RE/MAX LLC rankings for Large Team Residential, 2022. ††Source: REDATUM Agents by units – listing and selling combined performance in TRREB Jan 1 - June 30, 2022. RE/MAX Escarpment Golf Realty Inc., Brokerage. Independently owned and operated.

Body found in backyard on Anne Street, police investigating

Staff
The Lake Report

Niagara Regional Police are seeking information from the public after a body was discovered in a backyard on Anne Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Sunday evening.

Officers were sent out to assist with an ambulance call, Const. Philip Gavin said in response to questions from The Lake Report.

When emergency services arrived at the home, "a person was found in medical distress at the front of the home," Gavin said.

The body, which police refused to identify, was discovered in the backyard of the home.

The person who was in medical distress was taken to a Niagara hospital for assessment, Gavin said, and was in stable condition.

A forensics unit and coroner attended the scene to



A body was found on Sunday at 230 Anne St. SUPPLIED

investigate the incident and the cause of death.

Gavin said the investigation remains ongoing but that there is no public safety concern.

No one is in custody or charged in relation to the incident, Gavin said.

The home, at 230 Anne St., was involved in a weapons-related call on Jan. 29, when police armed with rifles blocked off the street.

More than half a dozen police vehicles, including

the region's emergency task unit and crisis negotiators, were called to the area.

At that time a suspect was arrested and later released with no charges laid.

The home is listed for sale as a building lot for \$1,249,000.

Gavin said anyone with information about the incident could contact investigators by calling 905-688-4111, option 3, extension 1009128.

Thank you!



from Niagara-on-the-Lake

Rotary Club



Thanks to our hosts, sponsors, donors, volunteers, & attendees,

the Icewine Cocktail Party

was a huge success! Funds were raised for Red Roof Retreat & Rotary International projects while guests mingled & enjoyed Niagara hospitality, live music, & the beautiful evening.



2023 Financial Sponsors (IG Private Wealth Management & Vision Luxx are missing)

We especially thank the following for their generosity:

OUR GRACIOUS HOSTS: Rick & Gianna Draitsacos

LEAD FINANCIAL SPONSOR:

Engel & Volkers Real Estate, Oakville - Nancy Bailey

LEAD WINE SPONSOR: Ferox - Fabian & Steffanie Reis

GOLD SPONSORS:

BarBea, Blocktrain Compliance AML Solutions, Lida Kowal Professional Corporation, Revel Realty - Evan & Jessie MacDonald, The Lake Report, Whirlpool Jet Boat Tours

SILVER SPONSORS:

IG Private Wealth Management, Vision Luxx

DRINKS SPONSORS:

Bella Terra Vineyards, Konzelmann Estate Winery, Niagara Oast House Brewers, Riverview Cellars Estate Winery, Strewn Winery

FOOD SPONSORS: BarBea Wine Shop, Cheese Secrets, Executive Catering, Masaki Sushi, My Cousin Vinny's

ADDITIONAL FOOD & DRINKS:

Aura on the Lake, Ginger Restaurant, Niagara Home Bakery, Niagara Juice Co., Oliv Tasting Room & Restaurant, PigOut Catering, Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery, Sandtrap Pub & Grill, Savoia Hors D'Oeuvres, Spirit in Niagara Distillery, The Olde Angel Inn, The Irish Harp, Willow Cakes & Pastries

FRIENDS OF ICEWINE COCKTAIL PARTY:

Angelika Zammit - Right at Home Realty, D&H Balloon Bouquets, Niagara Tents & Event

Join Us in 2024! #LetsPartyNOTL

niagaraonthelakerotary.ca/icewine-cocktail-party

2023

DID YOU VISIT THE TINY MUSEUM THIS SUMMER?

We want to hear about your experience, fill out our survey for a chance to win a prize.*



www.tinyurl.com/tiny-museum



*the deadline has been extended, visit our survey site for more information



Did you know?

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

The ink is also vegetable-based.





Darlene Romanowsky, left, and Paula Lepp were champions and Claire Bryan and Ann Davies were finalists in the annual Grape and Wine Tennis Tournament Saturday at the NOTL Tennis Club. CHRISTY PENNINGTON

Grape and Wine tournament crowns tennis champs

Staff
The Lake Report

Paula Lepp and Darlene Romanowsky teamed up to win the sixth annual Grape and Wine Tennis Tournament at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club on Saturday, Sept 23.

They defeated Ann Davies and Claire Bryan to claim the title in the final.

Two dozen women participated in an afternoon of doubles tennis that organizers Trish Spagnol and Christy Pennington said featured fierce competition plus lots of laughter and fun.

Women's golf leagues hand out the hardware

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Nearly 50 members of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club's nine- and 18-hole women's leagues turned out to wrap up their season Tuesday.

Besides their golf game, lunch and prizes, the women raised \$145 for Newark Neighbours in a 50/50 draw.

Longest putt winners were Lucy Brookhouser and Margot Richardson, while the longest drives were by Trish Anthony and Maria Townley.

Tuesday also was trophy day, when winners of the season's various cup competitions were announced.

Nine-hole league winners were: Bonnie Lamourie: Member's Cup and Gretchen Ormston Memorial Trophy Flight 'B' Cup; Charlotte Kainola: Joy Nelles Trophy and Carmichael Cup; Deborah Williams: Gretchen Ormston Memorial Trophy Flight A and June Handicap Award Trophy;



Several members of the NOTL Golf Club's nine- and 18-hole leagues were on hand when trophy winners were announced Tuesday. From left, Deborah Williams, Yolanda Henry, Sharron Marlow, Penny Green, Charlotte Kainola and Bonnie Lamourie. KEVIN MACLEAN

and Candace MacLean: Captain's Cup.

Trophy winners from the 18-hole league were: Cathy Murray: Vera Derbyshire trophy for golfer of the year; Yolanda Henry: the match play winner and recipient of the Barbara Ahluwalia trophy; Janice White: Hunter Cup; Sharron Marlow: Roslyn Cup; May Chang: Margaret Berry

trophy; and Sharron Marlow and Penny Green: Yules Pairs trophy.

Meanwhile, A.J. Harlund shot a sizzling even-par 36 to win low gross in Thursday men's league play last week. Stephen Ferley and Gerry Shelly were tops in Stableford scoring with 23 points.

Other winners: Brock Sansom (longest drive #1),

Sam Ridesic (closest to pin #2), Wil Neufeld (longest putt #6), Mike Henry (longest putt #7) and Jim Meszaros (closest to pin #9).

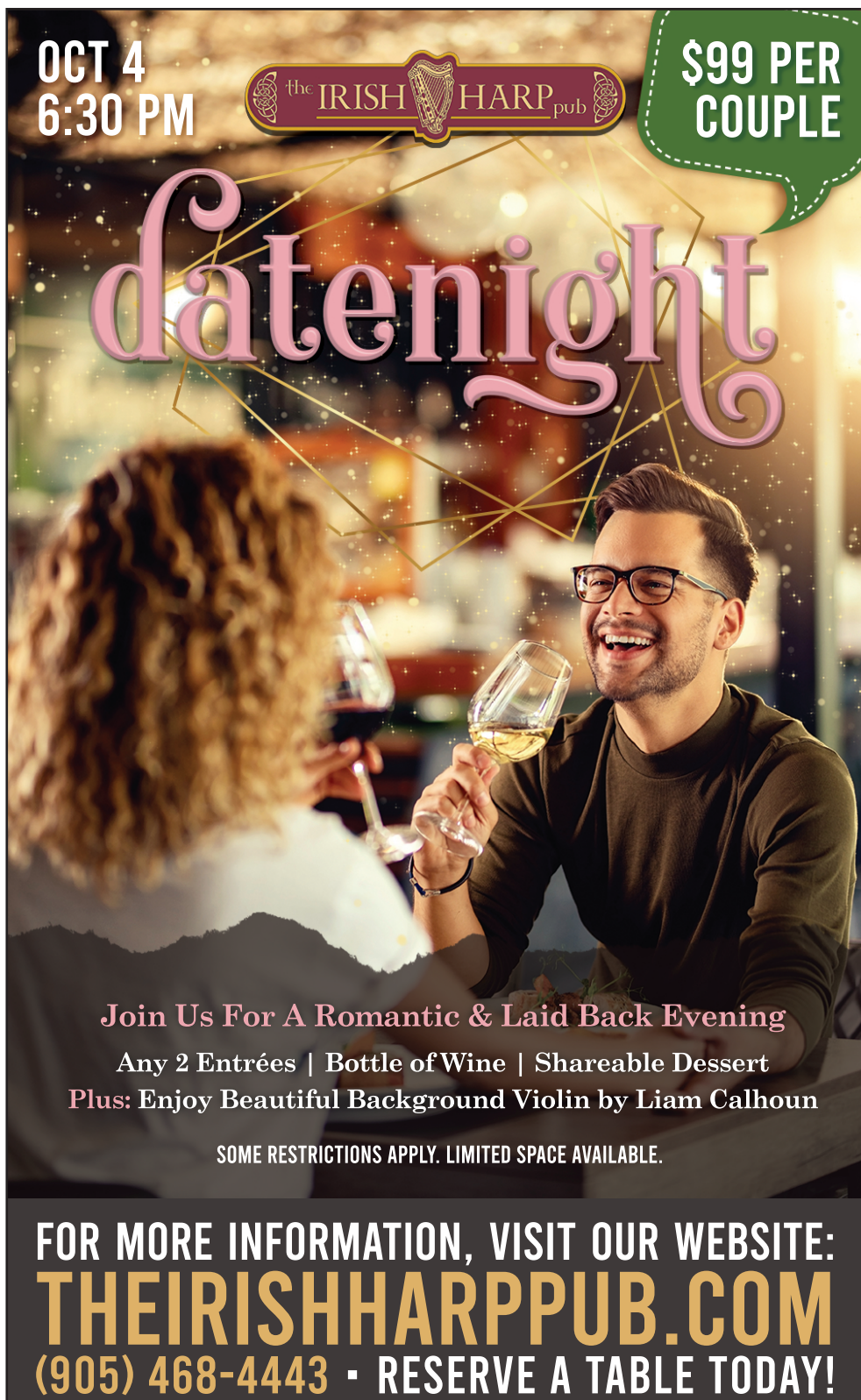
Gross skins went to: Tom Elltoft (#1), John Reynolds (#7) and Ron Newman (#8). Net skins winners were: Elltoft (#1), Robert Lowe (#2), Gary Wasylow (#4) and Don Stewart (#7).

OCT 4
6:30 PM

the IRISH HARP pub

\$99 PER COUPLE

datenight



Join Us For A Romantic & Laid Back Evening
Any 2 Entrées | Bottle of Wine | Shareable Dessert
Plus: Enjoy Beautiful Background Violin by Liam Calhoun

SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY. LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
THEIRISHHARPPUB.COM
(905) 468-4443 • RESERVE A TABLE TODAY!

GORGEOUS LUXURY BUNGALOW

39 Colonel Cohoe St, Niagara-on-the-Lake



- Gorgeous LUXURY Bungalow in "THE VILLAGE", the new part of OLD TOWN.
- This Detached CUSTOM-built by GATTA Homes presents a RARE opportunity on a PREMIUM location.
- Classic exterior with a Designer-done OPEN-CONCEPT modern Interior and EXCEPTIONAL finishes.
- Ceilings rise from 10ft to 16ft! Screened-in PORCH overlooks vineyards and beautiful sunsets.
- RELAX in the in-ground POOL or head to the FINISHED Basement.
- Truly a Home to ENJOY!
- For more information CALL GARY at 905-803-1908.

GARY DAVIS Sales Representative
Office: 905.940.4180
Mobile: 416.803.1908

ROYAL LEPAGE DIAMOND AWARD 2016
ROYAL LEPAGE DIRECTOR'S PLATINUM AWARD 2015, 2016
ROYAL LEPAGE PRESIDENT'S CHOICE 2016, 2015, 2014, 2012
The Community REALTY ROYAL LEPAGE

Wolves work on their skills

During a NOTL Minor Hockey U7 practice on Saturday, Auston Cwierniewski and Bennett Hope work the puck while goalie Noah Werner makes the save and coach Mike Cwierniewski looks on. DAVE VAN DE LAAR



PHOTO GALLERY
See more pictures at niagaranow.com

Predators beat St. George to notch first win of season

Kevan Dowd
The Lake Report

A week of practice and recuperation was all the Niagara Jr. A Predators needed to come back for their first win of the season last Friday night.

A 5-2 decision for the Predators over the St. George Ravens gives the Predators a 1-1-0 record in the Greater Metro Hockey League's south division.

Compared to their only other game of the season — which saw penalties and a weak third period cost them a W right out of the gate — they skated to a clean win over the Ravens thanks to a strong final 20 minutes and clear signs they had learned from their mistakes.

"It was a good win," said Predators head coach Kevin



The Predators pressure St. George defenders during their 5-2 win. KEVAN DOWD

Taylor.

"I was a little worried after the first, it was a little rusty. I thought they were a little slow coming out. Second period I thought we played a lot better and the third period we really played well."

Although St. George opened up the scoring just 29 seconds into the game, Isaac Locker tied it up for Niagara just shy of the first period's halfway mark.

Trailing after the second period's only goal went to the Ravens, the Predators came back in the third with a fury — scoring four unanswered goals.

Locker kicked-started the comeback with his second of the night a minute into the third followed by Niagara-on-the-Lake native Josh Frena, earning his first GMHL career tally at the 4:55 mark to put his team in the lead.

Nicholas Nicoletti gave the Predators some breathing room at 13:29 and veteran Reese Bisci finished things off with his team's final point of the night in the last 60 seconds.

Taylor believes his players are starting to take coaching staff's advice to heart, feeling part of the win came from them correcting their mistakes thanks to dressing-room feedback. He also thinks taking fewer penal-

ties made a big difference.

"I think everybody was more involved in the game," he said.

Not everyone get to play on the penalty kill, he noted, and in their first game the Preds took a lot of penalties, including two five-minute majors.

"So, it takes them out of the game and then trying to get them back in the game is tough."

Along with the win came some surprising news out of the GMHL: unable to fill their roster, the Windsor Aces have folded.

"They've always had a hard time getting players down there," said Taylor.

With a game scheduled against them last Saturday, it mean only one game for the Predators for the second week in a row.

Taylor said the change does not affect the number of home games in their season but could mean more road games. He'll know better when he sees an updated official schedule.

With another week of just practising, Taylor wants to keep the ball rolling for their next game against the Toronto Flyers this Friday night. He just hopes his players will keep seeing the results of growing and learning on and off the ice.

"These guys are young and they're full of something all of the time so you know we'll probably run into mistakes again," he said.

The Predators face the Toronto Flyers this Friday, Sept. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the Meridian Credit Union Arena in Virgil.

NOTL boxer in Colombia training for Pan Am Games

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

She's competing against some of the best amateur boxers in the world and she knows this is where she is supposed to be.

Mckenzie Wright, from St. Davids, is preparing for the biggest competition of her career — the Pan American Games.

"Most people can only dream of this. This is crazy exciting," said Wright.

Wright took home a bronze medal at the Pan Am qualifiers in Cali, Colombia, in August and that secured her spot at the Pan Am Games in Santiago, Chile.

She'll be competing for Team Canada from Oct. 20 to Nov. 5 and will be guaranteed a spot in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games if she finishes in the top two in her division in Santiago.

Wright arrived last week in Bogota, Colombia, to spend three weeks with athletes from 10 other countries training at an altitude of 9,000 feet.

"So we're going there specifically for sparring and for altitude training, so that when we come back down to sea level we will actually be in the best possible shape," she said before departing.

Santiago is "definitely going to be an intense compe-

tion," she said.

Even though athletes like Wright are representing their country abroad, Team Canada doesn't fund any of them, so it's up to the fighters to come up with the money for training and travel.

"Even now that I have qualified (for Pan Ams), there's still zero funding for me at the national or provincial level," she said.

Wright estimated the whole trip will cost her about \$6,000.

"Luckily, my fundraiser (at the Sandtrap in July) has helped me to cover this. Otherwise, there'd be no way that I could do any of this," she said.

She said her time competing in Cali in August was "very valuable."

Wright drew a bye, which automatically put her through to the semifinals where she lost to Mexican fighter Ingrid Alexa Gomez Galcia in the elite women's 48- to 50-kilogram class.

"Watching the rest of my division, I do feel that had I had a different draw or been on the other side I still feel I would have been in the finals or would have fought for a bronze medal," said Wright.

Her bout with Gomez Galcia was a good, competitive fight, she said.

"So after that fight, it sucks to lose but it does

reassure me that I'm right there and I'm right at the level of the gold medallist," she added.

Since then she's been focused a lot on her tactical training, like footwork and distancing. She's also been working on her mental stamina.

"One of the biggest takeaways from the last tournament is enjoying the moment more and having more fun with it," she said.

She's going to make sure she does exactly that in Santiago, she said.

"This is my first major games and if you'd asked me 10 years ago if I ever thought I would be at an event like this, I would have



Mckenzie Wright. FILE

thought no way," she said. "This is actually happening to me ... And I'm trying to live in the moment and just embrace it."

Have some fun



Across

- 1. Total (3-2)
- 4. Fat bakers make a hash of the morning meal (9)
- 9. Framework of hexagonal cells (9)
- 10. Petty officer on a merchant ship (5)
- 11. Game with traps and checks (3,6)
- 12. Headed (5)
- 13. "Good Will Hunting" star (4,5)
- 15. Cheap WW2 sub-machine gun (4)
- 17. Of the present month (4)
- 19. Victories (9)
- 23. Overtly aggressive man (5)
- 24. Perceptive (9)
- 26. Where you are now (5)
- 27. Noiseless (9)
- 28. Aping (9)
- 29. Sides in an eternal battle (5)

Down

- 1. Belief that there is no God (7)
- 2. Not strict (7)
- 3. Cargoes (8)
- 4. Tolerate (5)
- 5. At an early stage (9)
- 6. Sticky snacks? (6)
- 7. Kind of rifle (7)
- 8. Switched on (5,2)
- 14. Il Duce (9)
- 16. Humiliates (8)
- 17. Tel Aviv native, for example (7)
- 18. Feudal Japanese warrior (7)
- 20. Support for an orator (7)
- 21. Artists' models (7)
- 22. Battle of Jericho leader (6)
- 25. Colloquialism (5)

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				

Last issue's answers

1	E	2	H	3	T	4	F	5	S	6	G	7	S	8	A
9	S	L	O	T	H	10	O	V	E	R	R	A	T	E	D
	C	S	I	R	R	I	R	H							
11	O	U	T	E	R	12	A	D	V	E	N	T	U	R	E
	R	E	D	R	Y	I	G	R							
14	T	U	L	I	P	15	S	Y	N	A	G	O	G	U	E
	S														
20	A	L	T	O											
22	S	H	I	P	Y	A	R	D	23	S	24	H	O	W	D
	S	N													
27	U	N	D	E	R	P	A	I	D	28	M	I	N	E	S
	A	M	O	D	N	O	W	E							
30	G	R	A	N	D	I	O	S	E	31	U	N	I	T	S
	E	N	E	R	Y	R	N	S							

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





FREE HOME EVALUATION

CALL OR TEXT GREG DIRECT

905.329.3484



When you call Greg, you get Greg.

GREG SYKES

real estate TEAM








STEPHANIE FARR

MARIO SOLDO*

DEBI CHEWERDA*

GREG SYKES*

CAMERON JONES*

SHANNON LEIGH BEATTIE*

What is **dark energy** and is Einstein's general relativity right?



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Columnist

One of the things I enjoy and admire about science is that nothing is for certain.

Hypotheses we thought were true may turn out to be wrong, or at least in heavy need of revision in the face of new hypotheses, experiments employing better, more sensitive tools and new evidence.

That's precisely what many scientists hope will happen following the launch of the European Space Agency's Euclid Space Telescope in July, a new earth-based telescope in Chile slated to be ready in 2025, and the launch of the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope the following year.

In differing ways, these three sophisticated telescopes are designed to tackle the question of what's

behind the expansion of the universe.

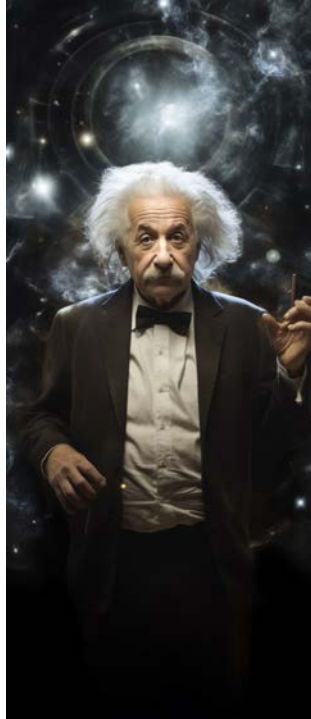
That the universe was expanding was suspected first in the 1920s by several theoretical physicists, including Georges Lemaitre, based on their analyses of Albert Einstein's equations for general theory.

The notion that his equations suggested an expanding universe initially was rejected by Einstein, but prompted him to introduce his famous cosmological constant into his equations to restore stability to the universe.

However, later observations by astronomer Edwin Hubble revealed nearby galaxies were speeding away from one another and the farther away they were, the greater the speed with which they were receding, carried by an expanding universe.

In response, Einstein acknowledged that indeed, the universe was expanding, and withdrew his cosmological constant from his equations for general relativity.

Recent hypotheses and evidence strongly suggest that within the first second following the Big Bang, the universe inflated faster than the speed of light to form a



nascent universe to the then visible limit of the universe.

Thereafter the rate of expansion slowed considerably, only to accelerate roughly three billion years following the Big Bang and continuing under the force of an enigmatic expansile force called dark energy.

It turns out the magnitude of this expansile energy is equivalent to Lambda – Einstein's cosmological constant.

The universe is expected

to continue to expand, with no obvious end in sight. At least that's the current story.

But there are questions. What's responsible for the expansion?

Does the rate of the expansion described by Lambda work for all times since the beginning of the universe?

Will Lambda's value continue to govern the future of the universe and theoretically end in a "great tear" in which whole galaxies, stars, planetary bodies and even atoms and subatomic particles are torn apart?

Or, could the period of expansion come to an end sometime in the distant future and even reverse, collapsing the universe into what's been called the "great gravitational crunch" with everything compressed into a tiny, extremely dense singularity much as it was before the Big Bang?

These are questions theoretical physicists revel in and precisely the ones those very expensive telescopes are designed to answer.

In short, is the cosmological constant, Lambda, an accurate measure of the expansion of the universe?

If not, is Einstein's theory of general relativity in need of revision or even replacement by a new gravitational theory? That's what's at stake.

So far, general relativity has stood every test.

What's not known is whether Einstein's constant applies to the roughly three billion years following the Big Bang.

The new telescopes aim to see whether the expansion rates of galaxies in that transition period are consistent with Einstein's cosmological constant.

If so, Einstein's theory of general relativity and his constant will have withstood yet another challenge.

But if not, it's back to the theoretical drawing boards to find a new theory to explain the nature of the universe including dark energy.

This is serious stuff, because dark energy comprises 68 per cent of the universe, dark matter another 27 per cent of the universe, leaving ordinary matter made up of subatomic particles and atoms and comprising a little less than 5 per cent.

That's a lot of mystery in

the universe to be solved and the answers won't be easy or cheap.

Long gone are the small budgets of Rutherford in Cambridge, U.K. or the minuscule budget of an Einstein.

These days, new space and land-based telescopes cost billions of dollars to design, build and maintain.

I think the costs are justified because they answer big questions about the nature of who we are, as well as the universe.

There are other socially intelligent species, but only humans ask existential questions and go about trying to answer them.

Sometimes, with art in all its many forms, other times by devising imaginary, often spiritual creation stories and sometimes using science, and the evidence from all those sources may turn out to be necessary before – as Stephen Hawking speculated – we have a "theory of everything."

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.



AUTHENTIC BRITISH PUB FARE AND 27 DRAUGHT BEERS

LIVE MUSIC FOR OCTOBER

OCT. 1 - **RON MCEWAN** (BEER GARDEN 2-5)

OCT. 5 - **MAPLE JAM**

OCT. 6 - **TAYLOR BROWN BAND**

OCT. 7 - **RYAN THOMAS BAND**

OCT. 8 - **RYAN THOMAS BAND**

OCT. 13 - **STUCK IN THE 90S**

OCT. 14 - **JIN**

OCT. 15 - **DUO LEEPA** (BEER GARDEN 2-5)

OCT. 19 - **FEVERISH LEMONS**

OCT. 20. - **A SIMPLE GESTURE**

OCT 21. - **COTTAGE BREW**

OCT. 22 - **RON MCEWAN** (BEER GARDEN 2-5)

OCT. 27 - **BUTLER'S BACKYARD**

OCT. 28 - **UNDERCOVER**

OCT. 29 - **DUO LEEPA** (BEER GARDEN 2-5)



LIVE MUSIC THURSDAY
THROUGH SUNDAY!

LIVE FROM 9:30 P.M. - 12:30 A.M. | FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM FOR ALL OF OUR EVENT INFORMATION

224 Regent St. | 905-468-3411 | oldeangelinn.com | Rooms available above the pub!



EXPLORING PHOTOS WITH NOTL MUSEUM



St. Davids Canning Factory, 1990

Commercial fruit growing started in Niagara between 1825 and 1830 when John Durham set out a large peach orchard on the River Road near Queenston, also known as the Fisher Farm. The first factory to can fruit in Niagara was set up in St. Davids in 1897 in an old flour mill. The building burned down in 1923 and a new plant was erected in 1924. St. Davids was a good location for the factory due to the large peach farms in the region and the prime access to main roads and railroads. Factory #22 was in operation until 2008 when the owners (CanGro) closed the plant. Today you can see where it was located, on Four Mile Creek Road in the section that houses Hummel Properties and Chocolate FX, among other businesses.

Important evening of **music trivia** at the Legion



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
Columnist

Always up for trying something new with new friends, and confident enough to admit I would be the weak link on a team, I participated in the NOTL Legion Branch 124's music trivia contest.

I had made it clear I had almost no knowledge in this area, but would smile and enjoy the experience.

A light dinner was included, prepared by chef John Vanderlee, and the price was very fair.

No thanks to me, our team won first prize. Team captain Mark Derbyshire had suggested Reigning Champions as our team name, which was apparently appropriate after the last

trivia night a few months back.

As our team of seven straggled in, I could tell I was among musical sharpies who knew their stuff and were ready to rumble.

Five or six other teams were around their tables, and none of us had any semblance of co-ordinated outfits.

Several players were wearing T-shirts that featured band names from long ago, some local, some international.

The bar was open featuring a few Niagara wines and ciders, and Budweiser beer was far and away the big seller.

Yes, ironic for a Canadian Legion, but this is the way it has apparently been for quite some time. Go figure, eh?

The trivial categories were clever, such as Movie Themes, Guitar Intros and Women's Names in Songs.

On an unrelated note, I learned that if your brown sugar has gone hard, put it in a sealed Tupperware container with a half slice of bread. Within 10 hours, voila, soft sugar! Amazing.



From left, Julie Jones, Kurt Hamm, Tim Jones, Mark Derbyshire, Linda Becker and Megan Vanderlee competed in the Legion's music trivia contest. SUPPLIED

Derbyshire deftly stepped into the role of team leader and skilfully listened to everyone's input before writing down our "final answers."

This is no easy task, as sometimes tough, ego-bruising decisions have to be made just before the time deadline expires.

Some people have the ability to be firm and fair without seeming bossy or draconian. Egos must be gently massaged.

I had never seen this side of multiple-time repeat

Niagara-on-the-Lake men's golf champion Derbyshire, also known as "Derby," whose stride is so easily recognizable from Queen Street as he walks along the par-5 third fairway.

Straight and athletic posture, shoulders loose and swinging, confident, obviously in his natural habitat. So clear that the game of golf is embedded in his genetic makeup.

The effective music trivia team leader must include all team members, unless, of course, someone like me

is at the table, as a self-professed musical nincompoop.

As we came to the fifth and final round, 10 questions each, our team was within one point of the lead, with a fair chance of repeating as champions. Repeating Reigning Champions had a nice ring to it, eh?

We dined well on chicken fingers and french fries from the kitchen of chef Vanderlee, who seemed to be totally competent and relaxed in his role behind the swinging doors.

The chicken was tender and appropriately seasoned, with a light breading that didn't dominate or overwhelm the entree.

Several people at our table paired the food with a pleasant Jackson-Triggs Pinot Grigio. For me, Molson Canadian, in the absence of Oast House Barnraiser.

The tension was palpable as the last 10 questions were read out. I observed that our team was hot, focused on the task at hand.

Everyone was putting in their two cents' worth and Derby was keeping the memory juices active.

Across the table from me, Linda had leaned in, trying in vain to mask her enthusiasm, contributing her comments as responses were mixed in.

The organizer of our table, Megan Vanderlee, was delighting in the enjoyment of the music trivia participants on this otherwise quiet Saturday evening in our historic town.

A good group of friends having fun together, competing, but heavy on the good natured banter. Respectful and humorous repartee between teams.

And when the winning team was announced, respectful applause all around.

I had to beg off early, after reminding my teammates that I had introduced myself as a musical knowledge featherweight.

When the trivia categories include geography and sports, I will leap into the front row, and be a major contributor to a team triumph.

That is, if I get invited back by the Reigning Champions.

FINE ESTATES
— TEAM —

REVEL

ON-THE-LAKE

REAL ESTATE GROUP



\$4,395,000
LISTED BY: TEAM MAC
JESSIE & EVAN MACDONALD

366 SIMCOE STREET
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

\$2,190,000
LISTED BY: CRYSTAL SIMONS &
ANDREW PERRIE

9 ANGELS DRIVE
ST. DAVIDS

\$1,699,900
LISTED BY: ANDREA POIRIER

287 TANBARK ROAD
ST. DAVIDS

\$1,345,000
LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE

45 MILLPOND ROAD
ST. DAVIDS

\$1,425,000
LISTED BY: CRYSTAL SIMONS &
ANDREW PERRIE

OLD TOWN
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

\$3,299,000
LISTED BY: TEAM MAC INC
JESSIE & EVAN MACDONALD

1135 BALFOUR ST
FENWICK

16/18 QUEEN ST
COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY
LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE

\$3,750,000

\$1,299,900
11.7 ACRES
LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE

907 CONCESSION 5
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

\$3,499,000
LISTED BY: TEAM MAC INC
JESSIE & EVAN MACDONALD

6 FIRELANE 11A
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

\$969,900
LISTED BY: WOLFGANG GUEMBEL
& SHANE WALL

6461 O'NEIL ST
NIAGARA FALLS

\$5,500,000
LISTED BY: TEAM MAC INC
JESSIE & EVAN MACDONALD

4 FIRELANE 4B
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

\$2,275,000
LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE

2600 BAXTER AVE
CHIPPAWA

\$2,999,999
LISTED BY: TEAM MAC INC
JESSIE & EVAN MACDONALD

6 DAVID LOWREY CT
ST. DAVIDS

\$749,000
LISTED BY: TERI ANDRUSIW

6478 RUSSELL STREET
NIAGARA FALLS

\$2,499,000
LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE
TURN KEY B&B

527 MISSISSAGUA ST
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

\$1,075,000
LISTED BY: SEBASTIAN SERNIAK

316 CONCESSION 3 RD
ST. DAVIDS

REVEL. THE FINE ESTATES TEAM INVITES YOU TO
FALL FUN DAY



FREE REGISTRATION HERE

Bring the family for **free** Pumpkin painting or carving, warm beverages, discover local vendors, photo opportunities, a bouncy castle & more!

Scan the QR code to reserve your free pumpkins!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14
11AM - 2PM

289.868.8869

1596 FOUR MILE CREEK ROAD

REVELREALTY.CA

Distract yourself from winter blues by planting **fall bulbs** for spring



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Columnist

I realize that autumn has just begun, but my thoughts have already fast forwarded to spring. Who needs winter anyway?

Don't get me wrong, I love the fall: the beautiful colours and the cooler, fresh air.

If you have visited a garden centre in the last couple of weeks (or if you are as addicted to plants as I am and have had several visits) you will know that it is time to be planting fall bulbs to enjoy next spring.

There always seems to be a bit of confusion as to the difference between fall bulbs and spring bulbs.

Spring bulbs are planted in the spring, and flower in summer. There are also referred to tender bulbs because they cannot tolerate our cold Canadian winters.

Therefore, they must be dug up in the fall and stored indoors and replanted every spring.

Some examples of spring bulbs are canna lilies, calla lilies, gladiolas, dahlias and

tuberous begonias.

Fall bulbs are referred to as hardy bulbs because they can tolerate our winters and, therefore, can be left in the ground year after year.

They bloom anytime from very early spring to early summer. Examples of fall bulbs include tulips, daffodils, crocus, hyacinths, alliums, winter aconite, snow drops and many more.

If you are new to the world of bulbs, here are some things to look for when you are purchasing your bulbs.

The key to a healthy plant is a healthy bulb.

Look for bulbs that are not showing signs of damage or bruising.

Dents or bruising on a bulb can become a sight for infection or mold.

Most bulbs have a brown, papery layer covering them called the tunic. This "skin" layer should be fitting tight to the bulb just like an onion.

The tunic protects the bulb and should be there when purchasing them.

The bulbs should be firm as a potato when squeezed. They should not be squishy.

A bulb is a storehouse. Within the bulb is everything that the plant will need to sprout and flower and produce leaves at the appropriate time.

If the bulb is feeling spongy, it means that it does not have the needed food to flourish or even grow at all.

Remember, you get what you pay for! You will find



Feeling sad about the end of summer? Joanne Young says you can look forward to spring by planting fall bulbs.

that bulbs can vary greatly in price, but the less expensive ones are not usually a good deal.

The larger (more mature) the bulb size is, the larger the bloom size will be.

If you are buying smaller sized (immature) bulbs, you may be waiting a year or two before they will produce flowers for you.

They will produce leaves the first year, but no flowers.

Once you have purchased some bulbs, store in a cool, dry place until you are ready to plant them.

Do not keep them in a closed plastic bag as it may cause mold to grow.

Now is a great time to purchase the bulbs to get your best selection, but you do have time to get them planted.

The best time for planting bulbs is mid October to mid November (about five to six weeks before ground freezes).

Optimal root development for fall bulbs occurs

when the soil temperature is around 10-15 degrees Celsius.

When planning where to plant your bulbs, remember that they require a soil rich in organic matter that drains well.

Bulbs will rot quickly in a damp to wet soil. Most bulbs prefer a sunny location, but keep in mind that they only require sun in the spring when they are actively growing.

So, they can be grown under deciduous trees as long as there is good soil for them to grow in.

Lastly, keep in mind that even though they are all spring blooming, that they do not all bloom at exactly at the same time.

Choose a variety of bulbs so that you can have overlapping bloom times for mid March to June and extend the beauty of your garden.

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

Obituaries

Walter (Allan) Bowron



Walter (Allan) BOWRON
May 28, 1942 – Sept 13, 2023

Long time Niagara-On-The-Lake resident, Walter (Allan) Bowron, passed away peacefully at the age of 81 on Wednesday, September 13th.

Allan is survived by his partner, Donna Cookson. Fondly remembered by his sons, Christopher (Tara) Bowron, Philip Bowron;

His sister Victoria (Peter) Bolduc; brother Ted (Nancy) Bowron; Grandchildren Jack, Molly along with many nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by his wife Helen and son Matthew; his brother Ron Bowron and sister Peggy McGivern Maynard.

Allan enjoyed a prosperous career in real estate making many long-lasting connections. Allan loved Round Lake and his trips to Florida, playing cards with his friends and signing out loud to Elvis and Sinatra songs.

The Bowron Family shared an intimate Celebration of Life this past Saturday with both family and friends in attendance. Special thanks to Vicki and Pete for so graciously hosting.

Sandra Sullivan



Sandra "Sandy" Louise Sullivan (Jesshope) of Toronto, passed away on September 21, at age 79.

Sandy is survived by her adoring husband of 51 years Timothy John Sullivan, and her three children Timothy Jr., Peter (Cathy), and Meghan; as well as her two sisters, Karen Dean (Gary), and Deborah Cushing (Richard). Sandy passed peacefully, with family at

her side at Niagara Health St. Catharines.

Sandy made everything around her beautiful, including the lives she touched. She was the center of her family, and will be deeply and profoundly missed.

As per the family's wishes arrangements have been entrusted with George Darte Funeral Chapel Inc., and cremation has taken place; with a celebration of life to be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to Niagara Health St. Catharines where Sandy received exceptional care.

Mini-home **raises money** for NOTL Cats

A miniature model of a NOTL house front is up for auction at the Pet Valu on Niagara Stone Road. Seen here, as Village resident Suzanne Morgan pets the store cat Da'Boss in the background, the model comes with a mini-Lake Report included — actually, it comes with two. Funds from the auction will be donated to NOTL Cats Rescue. RICHARD HARLEY



A Little Off The Top
 Specialty Pruning Service
 Garden management & maintenance
 Certified Horticulturalist
 Call Lorraine at 905-932-0308



Did you know?

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

The ink is also vegetable-based.



Top 25% 2022 & 2021!
When experience counts, count on Kevin.

**Kevin Stokes is
Christan Bosley
Recommended!**

“I wholeheartedly endorse Kevin Stokes
as one of our **Top 25% Agents in Ontario.**”



BOSLEY
REAL ESTATE
BOSLEY REAL ESTATE LTD., BROKERAGE

KEVIN STOKES
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

FREE HOME EVALUATION

CHRISTAN BOSLEY
PRESIDENT & BROKER OF RECORD

NEED HELP BUYING OR SELLING A HOME? MAKE YOUR MOVE EASIER WITH KEVIN'S HELP.

THE PERSONAL TOUCH

- Top 25% Agent
- 5-Star Testimonials
- Professional Photography & Video
- Millions of Views of Your Home
- Large Brokerage Team With Years of Experience
- Connected Network of Realtors
- Office in Old Towne with Parking
- Personalized Attention

LOCAL NETWORK OF PROFESSIONALS

- Lawyers
- Home Inspectors
- Contractors
- Professional Painters
- Home Stagers
- Home Decluttering/Organizing
- Lawn Care, Landscapers and Gardeners
- Moving Companies

THE EXPERIENCE AND THE CONNECTIONS TO GET THE JOB DONE.



\$2,625,000 | WITHIN STEPS OF THE NIAGARA RIVER 242 RICARDO ST, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
Historic home within steps of Niagara River. 5 beds, all en-suite. Over 3800 square feet. Income potential. Separate Coach House.

BOSLEY
REAL ESTATE

BOSLEY REAL ESTATE LTD., BROKERAGE

KEVIN STOKES
SALES REPRESENTATIVE
kstokes@bosleyrealestate.com
niagara-homes.ca
#5 – 233 King Street
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
O: 905.468.8600
D: 905.988.3222

Innovating the Industry Since 1928.
100% family-owned. 100% Canadian. Bosley Real Estate has been setting the standard for client care and exemplary results for close to a century. Kevin lives, works, and plays in Niagara-on-the-Lake, is a member of the local Rotary Club, and volunteers at Niagara PumpHouse. Call to discuss the market or just to say hello.



MAC INC.CA

BECAUSE YOU DESERVE THE BEST.