



## Fond memories of summers at Shalamar resort

First in a series.

Linda Fritz  
Special to The Lake Report

The boundaries of Queenston stretch from Line 6 to the north, Queenston Heights to the south, Concession 1 to the west and the Niagara River to the east. They encompass much more than the historic village centre, which is bordered by the Niagara River Parkway.

The Shalamar Lake campgrounds on Line 8 were a

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## Ross's Ramblings

### When COVID hits, loneliness follows quickly

Ross Robinson  
Columnist  
The Lake Report

Last Wednesday afternoon, I suddenly became a member of the COVID-19 in-crowd.

After just over two years of listening to medical statistics, watching Dr. Theresa Tam and Dr. Peter Juni and Dr. Anthony Fauci talking about COVID variants and hot spots and hospital

Continued on Page 14

## Garrison resident fears more coyote confrontations

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

A man walks with a club slung over one shoulder, a whistle around his neck, a dog tugging at its leash in his other hand. Cautious, his eyes dart from bush to alley looking for any signs of danger.

No, this isn't the portrait of a Guardian Angel in New York City in the late

1970s. This is Garrison Village, 2022, and the figure is Brad Hamilton.

Like many other residents in the neighbourhoods around Garrison Village, Hamilton is taking safety into his own hands after a string of confrontations with coyotes was reported on social media over the past few weeks in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"We've been attacked twice," Hamilton said in

an interview as he was out for a walk with his dog Tanner.

The first incident was about two weeks ago.

"My partner was walking, coyote came out of nowhere and he got Tanner up into his arms but (the coyote) was nipping at him," Hamilton said.

"A neighbour came out of their house with an



Brad Hamilton and his dog Tanner have been harassed by a coyote twice in Garrison Village. EVAN SAUNDERS

Continued on Page 2

## Can you smell it? Spring is in the air

Gardening columnist Joanne Young highlights the first flowering plants of the season



Top left: Brunnera. Top right: Chinese witch hazel. Bottom left: Cornelian cherry. Bottom right: A Helleborus flower. JOANNE YOUNG PHOTOS

Joanne Young  
Gardening Columnist

Can't you feel it? The air temperature is warming up and the soil temperatures are rising. The crocuses are blooming and spring is about ready to explode.

Why not get an early kick-off to spring by adding

some of these early-blooming plants into your garden?

If you were asked to come up with the name of an early-blooming shrub, most people would probably say forsythia, which would be correct, but there are more plants that will start to bloom here even earlier than that.

One is the Chinese witch

hazel (*Hamamelis mollis*). It is a larger growing shrub, reaching a height of 10 to 15 feet and just as wide.

It is known for its sweetly fragrant, golden yellow, unique-shaped flowers. There is also a reddish/orange flowering variety of witch hazel named "Diane" (*Hamamelis x intermedia Diane*). One is blooming

in front of the NOTL Community Centre now.

It is the first flowering shrub to come into bloom in late winter/early spring. Witch hazel prefers a slightly sheltered location in full sun or a dappled shade. In fall, the leaves turn yellow to orange to red, making it a showpiece in the garden. The plant is hardy to zone 5.

Another larger flowering shrub that provides flowers early spring is the Cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas*). Even though it is called a "cherry" it is actually in the dogwood family, but is unlike other dogwoods.

This large, multi-stemmed shrub is covered in a mass

Continued on Page 19

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## Walk tall and carry a big stick:

# Garrison resident fears more coyote confrontations

Continued from Front Page

umbrella to whack it away. Finally, they threw a poop bag and it distracted him and then they ran.”

The second incident occurred on Tuesday, April 5. Hamilton said he was walking along Brock Street with Tanner when he felt the coyote rub against the back of his legs.

“I just happened to be in a stairway area. I flung Tanner up onto the porch and ran up to grab a stick out of a display. I turn around and the coyote is coming up, growling at me,” he said.

“Then a beige car pulls up and a man starts yelling at the coyote and he yells to me, ‘Give me a stick.’ So, I toss him a stick, I’ve got the other one, then the door opened and a lady was there in her housecoat and said, ‘Give me your dog. Give me your dog.’”

“So, she takes Tanner into the house and then the coyote ran around — it was the big one, it was the 70 pounder — it kind of got pinned between the two houses.”

“We backed off and



Brad Hamilton and his dog Tanner have been harassed by a coyote on two occasions in the Village. He said he would rather see a non-violent end to the situation but will kill the coyote if it becomes a matter of self-defence. EVAN SAUNDERS

let it come out. There was a great big metal, I guess, electricity box, and we were banging on that

and it finally took off.”

Hamilton said the coyote had come out from between two homes and he

had also seen it running south toward the vineyards near the Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate Winery.

At that time, he said he knew of about 15 coyote incidents in Garrison Village and the Village neighbourhoods.

Hamilton said he is a huge animal lover and even helps run a dog shelter in Mexico City. But he said there is clearly something wrong in Garrison Village.

“You know it’s pretty bad when you have to carry a stick and be watching over your shoulder every five minutes” worried about being attacked.

He said many people are walking Garrison Village with similar defensive gear and noted one family he knows no longer lets their children play outside. “This idea of live and let live, there’s limits,” he said with a sigh.

Hamilton worries for the coyote’s safety if it keeps trying to snatch people’s pets and harassing individuals.

“I will kill it if it comes at me again and starts attacking me, and it’s only in self-defence and only because it’s happened twice already,” he said.

With the number of in-

cidents already, he worries it’s inevitable something bad will happen if the situation is not resolved.

“It’s not a matter of if, it’s a matter of when. Somebody’s dog’s going to be killed, a child could be attacked — or even worse,” he said.

He referred to the death of Taylor Mitchell, a Canadian who was attacked and killed by a pack of coyotes in Cape Breton in 2009.

“We don’t want something like that happening here,” he said, adding the last thing he wants is to see the coyotes hurt. He’d prefer to see them relocated somewhere far away, if possible.

However, Town of NOTL chief administrator Marnie Cluckie has said that under Ontario’s Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, coyotes can only be relocated a distance of one kilometre.

“I’m doing everything everyone is telling me to. I’m confronting them, I’m blowing the whistle, but ...” Hamilton trailed off.

“If we’re out walking and we’re all paranoid, something’s wrong,” he said.

## Provincial action needed now, COVID situation will only worsen: Hirji

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report



Dr. Mustafa Hirji.

The sixth wave of COVID-19 is beginning to eclipse the Omicron wave on several metrics and the time for provincial action is now, Dr. Mustafa Hirji says.

“We are probably now seeing a level of infection spreading in society that’s much closer to where it was back (during the) peak in January,” Hirji, acting medical officer of health for Niagara Region, said during a media briefing on Monday.

When infections were spreading like wildfire just a few months ago, Ontario had a provincewide approach to trying to snuff out COVID through a combination of mask mandates, proof of vaccination

requirements and social distancing guidelines.

Those measures have all been lifted but Hirji said it’s time to bring them back.

“(That’s) unfortunately not happening right now and there’s no reason to believe that this won’t continue to go up.”

He is open to implementing mask mandates and proof of vaccination requirements in the Niagara Region if the province fails to act.

But, “we really want to make sure the focus stays on the province. This is a provincewide issue. It is not a Niagara-specific issue,” Hirji said.

“I think if we act locally and we’re a little island where (safety measures) come back, it’s not going to work as well.”

“There’s not going to be the same buy-in that’s needed. There’s a lot of travel in and out of Niagara so people are going to be at risk when they are outside of Niagara. They’re going to be in Niagara and perhaps spreading infection.”

“We’re not going to get

the full benefit of that mask mandate if it’s only Niagara. The focus really needs to be on the province really encouraging and recommending that they do this right now.”

He hopes the province acts soon so Niagara can “start to build off on a more aggressive and assertive provincial plan going forward.”

Hirji pointed out that, based on wastewater data, many regions of Ontario already have a higher concentration of COVID-19 than they did during the highest point of the Omicron wave.

Niagara and the GTA are approaching similar levels but have not reached them yet.

“If we don’t act, I suspect we could be seeing something similar to these

other regions in a couple of weeks. I don’t think it’s a surprise to anybody who’s been paying attention,” Hirji said.

Hirji said this exact scenario was predictable more than two weeks ago.

“And unfortunately, I think it’s pretty predictable that it will continue to get worse,” he said.

Positive infection numbers are now higher than any wave other than Omicron. Hospitalizations have also been rising in tandem.

So far, the increase in ICU admissions has been low but Hirji said there is usually a lag between a hike in infections and hospitalizations and higher ICU numbers.

He said it is certain that, as more people get COVID, more patients will end up in the ICU.

The peak of this wave could come in early May, meaning the province will see increased hospitalizations, infections and deaths for quite a while, Hirji said.

Hospitalizations of children have not increased dramatically but the chief medical officer worries it is only a matter of time.

Once again, mask wearing, social distancing and getting vaccinated are essential to curbing the spread of COVID-19, he emphasized.

“But with nothing being done yet to try and address the increasing infections, I would expect that the hospital numbers and the death numbers will unfortunately continue to worsen for a period of time until at least we hit that peak (in May),” Hirji said.



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# Town to host coyote information session

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report



In response to a slew of encounters involving coyotes in residential neighbourhoods, the Town of NOTL is planning an information session for residents. JANICE WHITE PHOTO

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake will hold an information session on coyote's featuring experts from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Coyote Watch Canada and the Lincoln County Humane Society.

The plan is to have the organizations explain in detail how they address coyote problems and talk about how they have been successful in other municipalities, chief administrator Marnie Cluckie told council's committee of the whole meeting Monday.

The forum will be held sometime next week but no specific date, location or format for the session was released.

As residents continue to deal with coyote encounters, Cluckie said the town has been working on several ways to aid the public.

Signs have been installed in parks warning of coyote activity and 800 letters containing educational information were mailed out to residences in areas where there have been coyote sightings, she said.

As well, more animal-proof lids have been installed at parks around town, Lord Mayor Betty Disero noted.

Cluckie said neighbouring municipalities such as Thorold have had similar issues and were able to reduce the problem by working with Coyote Watch Canada

executive director Lesley Sampson.

"They all have great things to say about her," Disero added.

The mayor asked Cluckie to continue to try to find a way to trap and relocate the coyotes, but Cluckie doubled down on the advice provided by wildlife experts that reducing food sources in neighbourhoods is the best defence against the hungry canids.

She also said the town had found people who have been purposefully feeding the coyotes.

"I know that many in the community don't believe this is effective, but removing the source of food and preventing folks from feeding them, inadvertently or deliberately — and we did find some people deliberately feeding the coyotes — that is the best way to prevent them," she said.

She noted once again that laws around animal relocation prohibit the removal of an animal farther than one kilometre away, which amounts to a delightful

The town is working with Coyote Watch Canada to implement aversion training, which means teaching the wild coyotes that they will not find an easy meal in the residential neighbourhoods they have grown accustomed to, Cluckie said.

Disero said she had read about the same problem occurring in Stanley Park in Vancouver and noted after food sources were eliminated in the park coyote attacks dropped to zero from 40.

"I know that that sounds silly, but we've seen successes in many municipalities who've had this issue before us. That is the best way to prevent them from recurring," Cluckie said.

She noted once again that laws around animal relocation prohibit the removal of an animal farther than one kilometre away, which amounts to a delightful

walk home for a foraging coyote.

Coun. Erwin Wiens expressed concern that people are wrongly calling the town for all their coyote-related issues and asked Cluckie who a resident should call if they are dealing with an aggressive coyote.

She said 911 is the best number to call, as the police are equipped to handle aggressive wild animals while town staff are not.

The Lincoln County Humane Society, which is under contract to the town for animal control, should be called, she said. Its number is 905-688-7722.

The town has a coyote sighting form on its website. Disero asked Cluckie what exactly happens when someone fills out the town's online form.

The form is used so the municipality can create a map of where all the coyote sightings are taking place and is not intended as an emergency response.

The town compiles all the sightings reported and submits the information to Coyote Watch Canada and the humane society so the organizations can search those locales to try to find the coyote den.

Cluckie said staff from the humane society have been patrolling the neighbourhoods, such as Garrison Village, where sightings are reported.

But the den has yet to be found, she said.

The coyote sighting form is online at notl.com/coyote-sighting-form.

# Popular St. Davids Lions Carnival is back

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report



The St. Davids Carnival returns July 20 to 23. FILE PHOTO

The return of the festivals continues this year and another popular NOTL event will be back after a two-year COVID hiatus.

The St. Davids Lions Carnival will return July 20 to 23, at the St. Davids Lions Club.

Lion Glenn Miller said the carnival will feature all of the usual items, including rides for children and teens, bingo and crown and anchor

for the adults, the nickel sale, corn on the cob and a barbecue.

"All the food booths are coming back with our fa-

mous Lion burger, peameal bacon on a bun, french fries and onion rings. Our onion rings seem to sell out every year no matter how much

we increase the stock."

It wasn't a tough decision to make to bring the festival back, he said. The carnival is the major fundraiser for the St. Davids Lions and "the community has missed it."

"Every year we hear from people in the community how they have never missed one year of the carnival," Miller said.

He thanked the long list of businesses that help make the festival happen every year with funding and donations.

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# COLOURING CONTEST



Welcome to another Easter colouring contest by The Lake Report! There are two categories, one for children ages 6 and under and another for children ages 7 to 10. Colour both images and send a high-resolution photo of your finished piece to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com). Or mail it to PO Box 724, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Remember to include full names and ages and a family contact number with each submission. The winners will receive gifts from our sponsors, Rocky Mtn Chocolate and The Painted Turtle Pottery Studio. Happy colouring!



## Have a turtle-y awesome Easter!

The winners of the colouring contest will receive a gift pack with a gnome and gift card. \$55 value



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# Patrick Brown brings **Conservative bid** to NOTL

## Now mayor of Brampton, he says he can win the suburbs for Tories

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Federal Conservative leadership candidate Patrick Brown stopped in Niagara-on-the-Lake last weekend to stake his claim as the only Tory who can beat Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

“One of the reasons the Conservative party has been unable to win in the last three federal elections is they can’t win in the GTA. They lost in suburban Canada quite badly,” Brown said in an interview with The Lake Report.

Brown said he has demonstrated a clear ability to win in the Greater Toronto Area and in Canada’s suburbs, noting his victory in the mayoral race in what he called the “Liberal fortress” of Brampton.

In 2018, Brown beat incumbent mayor Linda Jeffrey in Brampton. Jeffrey served four years and is a member of the Liberal party.

Before her, Susan Fennell was mayor for 14 years. She was an independent but former member of the Progressive Conservative party.

The city has traditionally leaned Liberal and New Democratic in federal and provincial elections, though several Conservative MPs and MPPs have served terms in Brampton’s various ridings.

Brown’s short tenure as mayor of Brampton has not been without controversy.

In a scathing 2019 provincial ombudsman’s report, “Inside Job,” several officials from the Region of Niagara were sharply criticized for corrupt hiring practices.

David Barrick and Jason Tamming, both implicated in the report, were later hired under Brown as the chief administrator and head of communications, respectively, for the City of Brampton.

In February of this year, six of Brampton’s city councillors signed an open letter declaring democracy in the city to be “under siege” by Brown and ask-



Patrick Brown appeals to NOTLers to support his push to be the leader of the Conservative Party. EVAN SAUNDERS

ing for an ombudsman’s investigation into city affairs during his tenure.

Barrick and Tamming have since been fired.

Brown defended the hirings to The Lake Report.

“The mayor doesn’t hire any staff. It’s council,” Brown said.

**“In Brampton, for every new home that is built we have 10 people wanting to buy it. Government overregulation has diminished our capacity to be competitive.”**

PATRICK BROWN

“We hired an individual by an 11 to zero vote. He did quite well in our interview process and council was impressed.”

“At the end of the day, we as a council offered him a letter of recommendation. He did some good work for us during that time.”

The Pointer, a Brampton-based news and investigative journalism website, has done extensive reporting on Brown’s tenure as mayor and the roles played by Barrick, Tamming and others in his municipal administration.

At Saturday’s gathering, Brown noted his

strength in Liberal areas lies in his desire to build a “multi-faith, multicultural coalition based on conservative values,” and his fiscally conservative and socially liberal approach to politics.

“I’m the only candidate in the race with a proven track record able to do that,” Brown told The Lake Report.

Brown resigned as leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative party in 2018 amid accusations of sexual misconduct by two women.

That led to a years-long legal battle with CTV, which originally reported the allegations.

The suit was settled last month, with no money changing hands, but CTV changed some of the details in its stories and apologized to Brown while at the same time defending its reporting on the accusations.

Brown socialized with potential supporters in a barn on Line 3 Road on Saturday morning and about 60 people turned out to hear this message. One man asked Brown how he planned on winning with these allegations potentially dogging him.

“I pushed back and I won,” Brown replied.

“I think Canadians want someone who will stand up for themselves. I think Canadians want someone that will show resilience in adversity.”

One of Brown’s main

gripes with federal Liberal leadership has been what he calls a lack of vision for Canada’s energy sector.

“We face a challenge on energy sovereignty, inability for the government to build a national energy corridor speaks to a failure in the country.”

Brown said there is no reason why European countries such as Germany should need to be reliant on Russian oil when Canada has the resources to supplement their needs.

He said he would also embrace green sustainable technologies, noting former premier Bill Davis told him it is important to “focus on the jobs of tomorrow.”

Brown proclaimed his desire to fight for religious freedom in Canada, noting his push to get “Merry Christmas” displayed on Brampton’s buses.

He also wants to make Canada a more attractive place for international business investment, saying the country’s current sales pitch is, “Come to Canada. We have more regulatory burdens than other countries. Come to Canada. We have more taxes than other countries.”

Brown also addressed the affordable housing crisis in Canada, which he referred to as a problem of supply and demand exacerbated by federal economic mismanagement.

“In Brampton, for every new home that is built we have 10 people wanting to buy it. Government overregulation has diminished our capacity to be competitive,” he told The Lake Report.

He blamed excessive regulations for delaying building permits.

Brown also said no government has a “magic solution to (the housing problem).”

He attacked federal spending and pledged to run the government like a small business if he is elected.

“You just have to be frugal and careful and justify the dollars that are spent,” he said.

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

## COVID Tracker

**NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 103**  
**Region active cases: 1,725**  
**Region deaths: 529**  
**Region total cases: 37,616**

*\*April 13 data per Niagara Region Public Health. Public health warns that "Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, limited availability of testing, and changes to case and contact management practices, case counts shown (above) are an underestimate of the true number of individuals in Niagara with COVID-19. Data should be interpreted with caution." Case data for municipalities is also now being interpreted in 28-day cycles.*



**Contributed by Patty Garriock**  
 "Kindness is the sunshine in which virtue grows."  
 - Robert Green Ingersoll

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NOTL resident Bruce Gitelman captured this photo of his vizla Lily in front of the clock tower while on a walk.

**Calling all NOTL photographers: send us some of your interesting, evocative, quirky images of life around town and we'll consider them for this space on our editorial page. Email images (1 MB or more) to editor@niagaranow.com.**

## Homeward bound



## Editorial: Please don't feed the coyotes

Kevin MacLean  
 Managing Editor

It's coyote season in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Again.

The canids are leaving their dens, looking for food and, in many cases, scaring the heck out of residents.

People's fears are justified. Indeed, these are wild animals and hence can be unpredictable.

When a large coyote follows you or seems to be stalking you or your pet, it is only natural to be worried for your safety.

It could get worse before it gets better. As The Lake Report has documented in the past after speaking to experts in animal behaviour, soon the coyotes will be having pups and will be looking to feed them. Mice, squirrels, rats and other small animals are their usual meal preference.

But small pets, as we've heard anecdotally from people who have had frightful encounters, could be

seen by coyotes as a potential meal.

Most of our townsfolk make their home in urban areas of NOTL – like the Village and Garrison Village, but other areas across town as well. With development, the environment gets disrupted and changed.

The habitats of wild animals are destroyed in many cases to make way for homes. But, as well, forest management rehabilitation practices by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority also may have been a contributing factor.

A large swath of Two Mile Creek, near the end of Butler Street and bordering both the Village and Garrison neighbourhoods was disrupted last summer to remove scores of ash trees and other debris. Necessary work.

How much of a role that work played in destroying coyote habitats remains to

be seen. It certainly looks a mess.

But all these issues are just some of the factors in play. The biggest concern is probably: How do we solve the problem?

Well, that is something we need to look to experts for advice on and the Town of NOTL is doing just that.

(And yes, despite some inane musings and commentary on social media, there are scientific experts who study animal behaviours – and know what they're talking about.)

It might not provide any short-term solace to walkers who decide they need to carry a big stick, just in case. But there is a really simple thing that we all can do to help deter the foraging coyotes.

Don't leave any kind of food out where they can get it. Seems like a simple request, but last garbage pickup, we saw many people still putting out the trash the day or evening before

pickup. That's a coyote magnet, especially in the problem areas.

(Of course, with green bins and alternate week garbage pickup, there shouldn't be any tasty organics in the trash to attract them. But some humans have not yet changed their behaviour.)

The coyotes are not going away. They'll be feeding their offspring till sometime in June. Shooting and relocating them appear to not be practical solutions. And we can lament the fact that if it weren't for development ... but that ship has sailed.

Let's deal with the problem. The first step starts with making a concerted, community-wide effort to not put out any kind of food that might attract them. (And certainly don't feed them deliberately!)

If they can't score an easy meal on your street, chances are they'll stay in the forested areas and do what comes naturally there..

editor@niagaranow.com



## Proposed winery design is overpowering

Dear editor:

I am writing regarding the proposed development of the Stone Eagle Winery, ("Councillors question size and height of new winery," The Lake Report, April 7).

As usual, welcome to the lunatic design contest as another really overpowering, inappropriate design is threatening to appear.

The winery's main building reminds me of a European train station – and not the nice ones.

There must be a lot of male designers involved with this one. They just have to have the biggest and the tallest of whatever that "cupola" thing on top is.

Having tall towers on top of any new buildings in this

special historic town is just totally wrong.

Unfortunately, in the short or long run with this type of developer and this amount of money, there is not much of a guess as to what the final results probably will be.

But never say never.  
 Christopher Allen  
 NOTL



A rendering of the proposed Stone Eagle winery. SOURCED

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## Partnership with Habitat for Humanity shows how government can deliver **affordable housing**

Dear editor:  
I appreciated Robert Bader's letter on the housing supply problem that our communities are facing' ("There is no housing supply problem. There's a social and financial problem," The Lake Report, April 7).

He encourages governments to lead by being innovative and to invest in effective initiatives.

I want to congratulate the City of St. Catharines for taking the lead on being innovative and ensuring that the sale of city

property drives affordable housing.

St. Catharines recently approved the sale of roughly 3.8 acres of land previously occupied by the city's community, recreation and culture services administration building.

The sale was approved provided it is used in part for affordable and social housing.

Specifically, the developer must include 43 per cent affordable housing and 14 per cent social housing.

The developer has committed to a partnership

with Habitat for Humanity Niagara to ensure that 32 townhouses are sold to Habitat at below-market rates.

In turn, Habitat will sell the townhouses at the same price as purchased to deserving families who would not otherwise be able to afford a home.

Habitat will sell the homes through an equity share program. Profits generated off future sales of the townhomes will be split between the selling family and Habitat, allowing for the organization

to reinvest the profits in future affordable housing.

The partnership with Habitat on the 32 townhouses comes alongside requirements that 60 rental units be rented at affordable rates for the next 40 years.

This is an exciting initiative and will make an impact on the affordable housing crisis in Niagara and allow families to achieve greater stability.

**Cindi LoForti Lepp**  
Chair  
*Habitat for Humanity*  
Niagara

## Why does Ford insist on **putting Ontarians at risk?**

Dear editor:  
So Premier Doug Ford declared the pandemic over?

Then he reduced and limited testing so the true numbers of infections would be hidden. Next, he discontinued contact tracing and vaccine and mask mandates.

Finally, he now reassures Ontarians that the hospitals can handle any surge. And this, despite hospital staff, in many news reports, saying that is not necessarily true.

So, what were his motivations for such a moronic move?

It can't be the welfare of Ontario's citizens or he wouldn't be OK with actions that can sicken and possibly kill some people.

It can't be that he wants more time at the cottage as he seems to spend an inordinate time there anyhow – particularly when crises happen and he



Doug Ford.

is finally found bundled up like a bunny in his snowmobile suit, gliding over hill and dale without a care in the world.

In his defence, Ford claims he is "following the science." And, to back this up he cites an endorsement of his actions by Ontario's chief medical officer, Dr. Kieran Moore. It would be laughable if it weren't

so tragic. Despite on Monday recommending that people wear masks indoors, it is obvious that Dr. Moore has moved from medicine to political minion by going along with the Ford government's questionable approach and refusing to re-impose the mask mandate.

After all, if Ford and Moore's "scientific approach" were working, we wouldn't be seeing 100,000-plus new cases per day, which Moore confirmed is the sixth wave of COVID.

Ford's actions show that only a man with a very limited intellect and an extraordinary lust for power would risk people's lives by willingly and stubbornly ditching safety protocols during a pandemic.

In effect, it's akin to recommending that drowning people throw away their life preservers because they are

in the way of them reaching for their wallets.

Wallets? Could that be the answer? Facilitate people reaching for their wallets so Ford's business allies will benefit financially and assure he is re-elected in a matter of weeks?

It seems to fit as he skips through the budding tulip leaves throwing taxpayers money back at them.

This is hardly the first time Ford has had to reverse himself on so many dumb decisions. Hopefully he will do so soon and reimpose the safety protocols.

However, we also have to wonder how many people will die this time because of his dedication to getting himself re-elected?

Indeed, the next time he declares the pandemic over, I hope he makes sure COVID gets the memo.

**J. Richard Wright**  
NOTL

## A heartfelt **thank you** to NOTL residents for helping Ukraine

Dear editor:  
I want to say thank you to everyone in NOTL. Ukraine has been helped because of you.

Because reporter Evan Saunders and The Lake Report took the time to publish the article, "United by war, they carry on fathers' legacy" on March 23, you read the article and you donated. You helped Ukraine.

Because the Facebook

group Buy Nothing Niagara-on-the-Lake administrators – Audrey Martens Pellett, Julia Buxton-Cox and Kyra Simone – allowed me to make posts asking for donations for Ukraine, you read these posts. You donated supplies that were needed.

You helped Ukraine. Know that when your donations were brought to church, I was so proud to say that they were from

my municipality, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

In a blink of an eye, this town is ready to help and for that I am truly grateful.

To date, our church has sent over 2,000 boxes of supplies to Ukraine and has raised over \$150,000 in donations because of people like you.

From the bottom of our hearts, St. John the Theologian Ukrainian Catholic Church thanks you. Lida

Kowal Curtis thanks you. I thank you. The people of Ukraine thank you.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please visit the church's website at st-johnuc.com.

Your donation will go toward the cost of shipping or for purchasing much-needed military and medical supplies.


**Chris Wormwell**  
NOTL



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## Tips for avoiding coyote conflicts



### DO NOT FEED COYOTES

- Feeding coyotes causes aggression towards humans



### PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

- Store garbage indoors until collection day
- Secure garbage and compost in durable plastic or steel containers with locking lids
- Remove bird feeders and seed spillage that attracts rodents and their predators
- Feed pets indoors and always keep all pet food indoors



### PROTECT YOUR PETS

- Keep cats indoors
- Keep dogs on a short 6' leash when out for a walk
- Check your property for wildlife before letting your pet outside
- Do not house rabbits, fowl, or other pets outdoors



### PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

- Never leave young children unattended
- Teach children not to approach or harass wildlife
- Avoid walking at dusk and dawn or after dark in areas with coyotes
- Carry protection such as a personal alarm, umbrella, flashlight and a cell phone to call 911 in case of an emergency



### IF YOU ENCOUNTER A COYOTE

- Stay calm and wait until they move away
- Do not turn your back or run
- If approached, stand tall, wave your arms, and make yourself as large as you can
- Clap, yell, shout, make startling movements or throw an object toward the animal
- Startle them by opening an umbrella or using a flashlight



**It is vital that anyone in an emergency situation with a coyote, such as a coyote cornering a human, call 911 immediately. Police are authorized to handle these situations and frequently engage the Humane Society when they attend the call.**



## Lincoln County Humane Society



905-682-0767 or 1-800-263-2469 (after hours, press 1 for emergencies)

## Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

905-468-3266 ext. 0  
[info@notl.com](mailto:info@notl.com)  
[notl.com/coyotes](http://notl.com/coyotes)

## Important Note

Provincial Law prohibits the relocation of wildlife beyond a 1 km range. Therefore, coyote(s) relocated 1 km away often return to the area where it feels most comfortable.

## Niagara-on-the-Lake an economically 'unique' town, consultant says

Evan Saunders  
 Local Journalism Initiative  
 The Lake Report



Economist Tom McCormack presents an economic analysis of the town during a recent council meeting. SOURCED

Niagara-on-the-Lake's population does not need to grow as fast as its economic base thanks to its proximity to major urban centres, an economist says.

"Niagara-on-the-Lake is one of the most unique communities that I've run into in the three decades that I've been doing this kind of work," Tom McCormack, president of Metro Economics, told town councillors at a recent meeting.

He, along with Lauren Millier, founder and vice-president of MDB Insight, presented the first phase of the town's economic impact analysis to council.

McCormack found NOTL a unique community due to its aged population, overwhelming reliance on the tourism sector and proximity to major urban centres such as St. Catharines.

In total, there are some 11,575 jobs in NOTL. Of those, 49 per cent, or 5,716, are "economic base" jobs, which means they rely on people who do not live in the community to flourish, McCormack said.

He said this is an unusually high number and most communities' economic base jobs range from 15 to 25 per cent.

"Niagara-on-the-Lake is very blessed with economic base jobs," he said.

The remaining 51 per cent are community jobs that serve NOTL residents specifically, such as grocery stores.

Of the 5,716 economic base jobs, 59 per cent are in the tourism sector.

He said the tourism sector includes people working in accommodation, food, retail, arts, entertainment and recreation.

Agriculture and manufacturing jobs accounted for 17 and 14 per cent, respectively, of the economic base jobs.

McCormack noted agriculture and manufacturing are important for the town's economy but "those industries aren't creating jobs currently, nor will they

the people who are filling the jobs in your community don't live there."

He emphasized that the direction of the town's growth is up to council.

Coun. Norm Arsenault pressed McCormack on whether he believed the high cost of housing and lack of affordable rentals was impeding NOTL's growth.

McCormack stated he did not think more development was necessary for the town's economic growth, pointing to the proximity of Niagara Falls and St. Catharines as more than sufficient to supply NOTL's labour needs.

"Because you are in the middle of a very strong growing metropolitan area there are lots of workers in the entire census metropolitan area who move about from one community to another," he said.

"So, I don't think you will want for a supply of workers in the future should your tourism industry continue to grow rapidly."

Confusion arose when Coun. Sandra O'Connor asked McCormack about the impact of migrant workers on the community.

Misinterpreting what she was referring to, McCormack said migrant workers is a negative term to apply to people who do not live in NOTL but work there, not realizing O'Connor meant seasonal workers who come from other countries.

But McCormack's lack of understanding about migrant workers, which he said were not included in employment numbers, was also addressed by Coun. Erwin Wiens, who is a grape farmer.

Migrant workers "have a huge impact on the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake because they all shop here, they have to eat here and they all live here, they take up housing and they take up heat and hydro," Wiens said.

McCormack also presented projections for NOTL's future growth. He estimated by 2051 the town would have a population of 29,000, dwellings would increase to 12,600, and jobs to 17,200.

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The library's Repair Cafe is seeking volunteers. FILE PHOTO

## NOTL library looking for **tech-savvy** volunteers to help with Repair Cafe

Staff  
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library is planning to bring back its popular Repair Cafe this summer and is looking for handy volunteers who can help.

The program offers people a chance to bring in their small electronics to be repaired at no cost in the library's Makerspace.

"We are looking for volunteers who are tech-sav-

vy and mechanically savvy, to be able to help rewire or repair items that people in the community may not know how to fix," said Aedan Johnston, the library's Makerspace facilitator.

People who are skilled in sewing, soldering, wiring or metalwork would be ideal volunteers, he said.

Johnston said in general, the items people usually bring in are lamps, small electronics and appliances, jewelry, ripped fabrics or unseated zippers.

## Earth Day barbecue supports next phase of **heritage trail** improvements

Staff  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's heritage trail committee is preparing to work on Phase 2 of trail improvements and will host an information session and free barbecue lunch on Earth Day, April 22, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The barbecue will be at the home of Steffanie Bjorgan at 404 Concession 1 and is open to anyone who wants to attend and learn more about the plans to expand the trail.

There is no charge for the lunch, but organizers are asking for donations toward the trail fund.

The committee is in charge of restoration of the Upper Canada Heritage Trail, which runs along an old railway bed from East and West Line heading south and ending at York



Tony Chisholm and Steffanie Bjorgan. SUPPLIED

Road near Queenston and St. Davids.

The completed Phase 1 opened in August 2021 and residents who have donated to the cause have been happy to see the work done.

When work was underway on the first phase, some residents were upset when some were cleared along the path.

Phase 2 of the upgrades will see work done to the section along Concession 1 from East and West Line to Line 3.



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FEATURED

# Photographer collects and restores old film cameras

Old-school photography is not as practical as modern digital, but he enjoys the hands-on aspect

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

There is a certain charm in film photography for Niagara-on-the-Lake newcomer Travis Reside and he is intent on restoring old film cameras to keep that magic alive.

“The thing I love about film is the process of it. I love being able to slow yourself down and figure it out,” he says.

Reside, 20, studied photography at Algonquin College in Ottawa but the program was focused on the digital format.

He says he wanted to start shooting film because it always intrigued him. His mother gifted him a film camera several years ago and that set him on his way to experimenting with film and everything that goes with it.

“There’s so much within film photography that you can explore and expand your knowledge on. I’ve been shooting film since 2019,” he says.

“I’ve explored a lot of formats and mediums within film and there is still tons of mediums that I have not explored personally.”

He began restoring cameras after his neighbour gave him a 1971 vintage Canon AE-1. He had bought it brand new when he was in the military and it was just sitting in the basement collecting dust.

“It was dirty. I was like, you know what, this camera has potential. I can use it,” Reside says.

He began researching safe products to use on cameras so he wouldn’t damage any of the parts and he got to work.



Above: Travis Reside takes a vintage selfie with one of his restored film cameras. Below: Some of Reside’s old film cameras. SUBMITTED/TRAVIS RESIDE



“I cleaned up the lenses and also put in new light seals. The light seal keeps the film tight because you don’t want to expose film to light. So I bought a big thing

of light seal material and every camera that I had gotten or had bought, I changed the light seals,” he says.

His passion for fixing cameras grew from there.

“It became not even just a hobby. It just became a thing that I enjoy, and I enjoy helping the community,” he says.

Reside now takes in old cameras that people would

like to give away and he restores them. When done, he says he often gives them away.

“I’ve given away just over 15 cameras. I’ve had well

over 30 or 40 cameras in my collection,” he says, noting he tends to hand them off to friends or people he meets who want to start shooting film.

“I have a passion for it. Film is not as practical as digital, but it’s something that I really enjoy,” he says.

“Over the years certain things go away because they kind of just die off, but film is one of those things that I really hope stays forever.”

Reside also develops his own film and says he encourages anyone who wants to experiment with film to do the same.

He purchased his initial kit, which included a developing tank, a bottle of developer and a bottle of fixer chemicals for about \$100. The cost is worth it for anyone who wants to seriously start exploring the world of film, he says.

Film is more expensive than digital “but it’s the process and the hands-on part of it that is worth it,” he says.

He is always looking to collect old cameras to restore. He is also happy to restore and return photography equipment to people who want them fixed for their own use or collection, he says.

In NOTL, Reside likes to shoot old barns and landscapes, but says he pretty much photographs anything that catches his eye.

Check out his photos on Instagram at @travisshootsfilm. Anyone looking to donate or connect with Reside about restoring camera equipment can reach him by email at [travis.reside@gmail.com](mailto:travis.reside@gmail.com).

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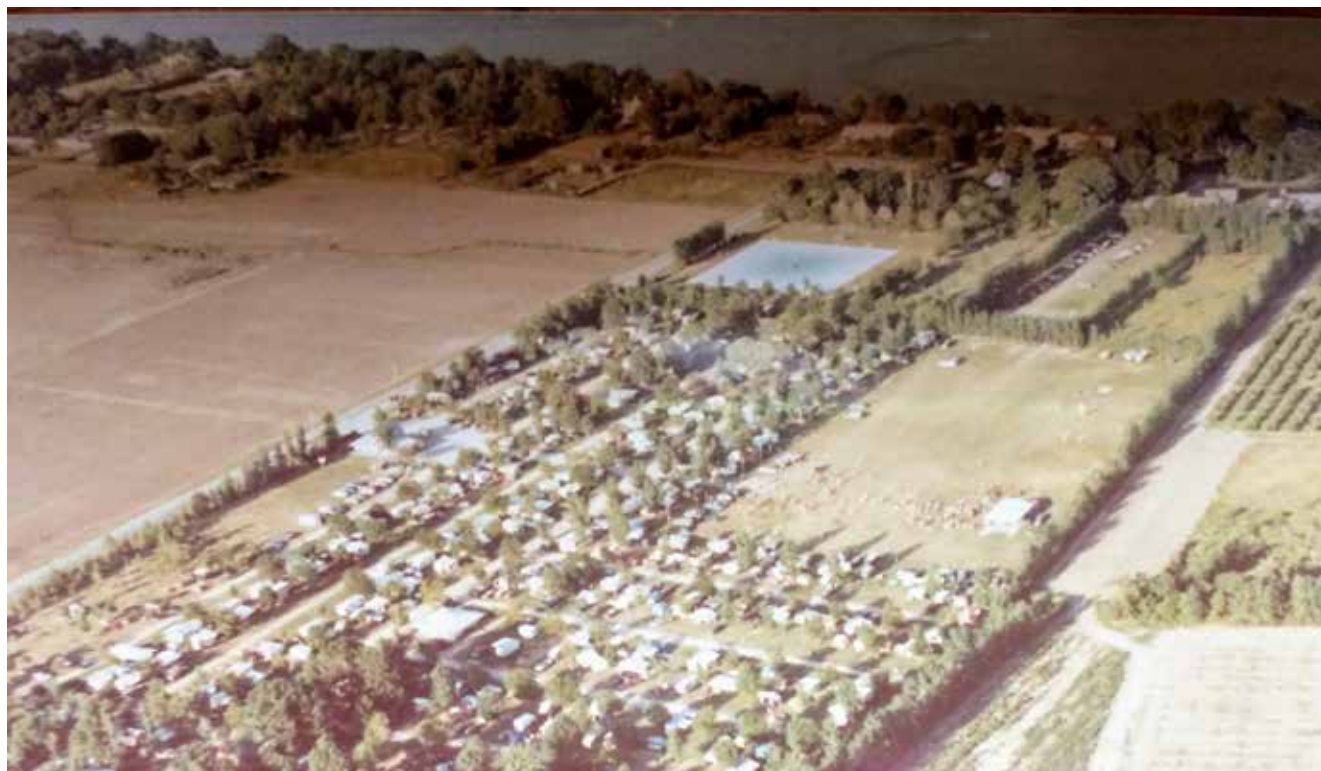
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# NIAGARA'S HISTORY UNVEILED

## FEATURED



An aerial view of the former Shalamar Lake resort shows the campground and large swimming pool. SUPPLIED

## Fond memories of NOTL's **Shalamar Resort**

*Continued from Front Page*

part of Queenston and, in the resort's heyday, village children often played in the half-acre pool.

The story of Shalamar Lake begins as a family saga. It was built by Harold Herbert Sheppard and began operating in the mid-1960s. It has seen several changes in ownership over the decades and but is still operating and is known now as Vine Ridge Resort.

Sheppard was a character and although he went by Bert, he was usually known as Shep. The name Sheppard is well-known in Queenston and a very pretty crescent that winds its way up the escarpment is named for the family.

Shep's daughter, Cynthia, tells the story.

"I loved listening to him cast his vision with a twinkle in his eye, his signature. Some dreams materialized and some remained in the

recesses of his mind, and mine," she says.

"The pool, I believe, was the first ever self-proclaimed 'man-made lake,' with sand all around the perimeter. It offered hours of play for toddlers and much confusion to incoming tourists looking for the lake! Unfortunately, the staff and lifeguards had to spend many hours cleaning the sand out of the pool. It was replaced with an asphalt apron painted blue like the water."

Cynthia's sister Diane Sheppard ran the pool area.

In the early days, campers could use the pool for free. Queenstonians could buy family memberships and people from all over Niagara could pay a daily fee of 75 cents. Shep would contact a local radio station daily, to let listeners know the water temperature.

Diane also managed five lifeguards, and sold hot

dogs and ice cream.

While Diane was overseeing the pool, Cynthia looked after the camping area. There were 350 serviced plots and an open tenting area.

Each winter the Sheppard family mailed out hundreds of flyers and people came from all over Canada and the United States.

During the camping season, these two teenage girls were busy from 7 in the morning to 11 at night, registering campers, selling groceries, cooking hamburgers, hot dogs and french fries. They also dealt with 911 calls, septic system backups and blocked toilets. According to Cynthia, the last happened "way too often."

The girls' brother Dale was a handyman, whose skills were highly valued. Another brother, Tim, was responsible for inventory in the shop. It was noticed that sometimes

things like candy bars and chips went missing. According to Cynthia, Tim was the most likely culprit.

Other jobs taken on by the brothers included grass cutting and cleaning up the fire pits and washrooms.

Cynthia adds, "I can honestly say I loved Shalamar, all aspects of it. I learned some good management skills at a very young age. And Shalamar became a popular hangout for many of my friends. I believe my dad felt we were safest with friends hanging around than being out in the back forty all on our own."

**Next: Shalamar was a real family affair.**

*Author's acknowledgment: I'd like thank all of those who responded to my request for information about Shalamar Lake. All of you loved your time there. Because there were so many of you, I had to pick and choose the*



**A man calls his dog from the opposite side of the river. The dog crosses the river without getting wet, and without using a bridge or boat. How?**

Last issue: I can be seen in the middle of March and April, but not at the beginning or end of either month. What am I?

Answer: The letter r

Answered first by: Mary Drost

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Claudia Grimwood, Terry Nord, Becky Creager, Mary Ann Enns, Pam Dowling, Maria Janeiro, Sylvia Wiens, Gary Davis, Wade Durling, Ross Robinson, Emily Franzo, Elly Kopp, Jeff Weir, Bob Stevens, Sheryl Christensen, Cathy Hesch, Kevin Etherington, Doug Bruce, Margie Enns, Dennis Blake, Howard Jones, Wesley Turner, Sheila Meloche, Jane Morris, Roxanne Sabadisto, KC King

Email answers to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com), with your name, for a chance to win a \$20 Irish Harp Pub gift card every week. (Subject line: Riddle me this)

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# Playing a tune of spring

Piper Mychael Morohovich from Pittsburgh plays a tune at the edge of Queen's Royal Park, looking over Lake Ontario near the mouth of the Niagara River. DAVE VAN DE LAAR



Open Mic at the Legion returns April 24. FILE/SUPPLIED

## Legion open mic returns after 'recess'

Staff  
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion is about to get rocking again, as it brings back its open mic jam session after a 24-month COVID "recess."

Randy Busbridge, organizer and host of Open Mic at the Legion, said when the event started in the fall of 2019 it "quickly became a popular attraction for both lo-

cal musicians and listeners."

He's hoping to see the same spirit again for Round 2.

"As well as enjoying some fine music and companionship, open mic patrons were also supporting the good work of our local Royal Canadian Legion," Busbridge said in an email.

The first open mic returns Sunday, April 24, from 2 to 5 p.m., and will continue to run on the last Sunday of every month.



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# NOTL Museum welcomes back researchers

Staff  
The Lake Report

On a hunt for some Niagara-on-the-Lake history?

Good news — the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum’s research room is open again every Tuesday by appointment.

As of April 12, “all sleuths, detectives, genealogists and the general curious public are once again invited back to explore the secrets of boxes, drawers, and files of historical archives,” said Barbara Worthy, the museum’s head of visitor and member services.

Anyone doing digging should start at the museum’s collection database site at [www.notlmuseum.ca](http://www.notlmuseum.ca) and, after an initial exploration, researchers can book an appointment with the museum to dig deeper, she said.

Once requests are received, a detailed inventory of relevant information on a particular subject is drawn up by museum staff. Researchers are then able



Assistant curator Shawna Butts in archive room. SUPPLIED/NOTL MUSEUM

to determine exactly what archival material they would like to physically examine.

“The museum is home to more than 50,000 items, out of which approximately 41,000 fall into the photographic, paper and print categories,” Worthy said.

“And as this museum houses one of the oldest and most significant collections


of life in Upper Canada for the past 10,000 years, the job of clue-hunting is not for the faint of heart,” she added.

“Diaries, war claims, oral histories, military and court records, properties, families, names and early settlement records, all make up the extensive collection, and make researching even the most obscure article a fascinating adventure.”


All researchers are asked to phone ahead to make a Tuesday appointment and to indicate initial areas of interest. Research fees are \$15 per visit for non-members and free to members.

Interested sleuths can check out the NOTL Museum website at [www.notlmuseum.ca/research](http://www.notlmuseum.ca/research), or send an email to [contact@nhsm.ca](mailto:contact@nhsm.ca).

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# When COVID strikes, self-isolating gets **lonely** in a hurry

Continued from Front Page

overcrowdings and medical personnel burnout, my rapid test came back positive.

Not without warning, mind you, as I had been feeling off for a couple of days, with an upset stomach, a persistent runny nose, and a rather harsh and repetitive cough.

Still, after I was able to remember that in medical parlance the word positive indicates a negative situation, I said to myself, "This is real, and I must be a good boy and carefully follow every instruction."

As a person who naturally enjoys being out and about, interacting with my fellow Niagarans, being confined to quarters got old within a day or two.

The awful news from around the world, the polarizing, negative tone of our provincial, national and world politics, and the non-stop bluster about how great the Leafs are all made watching television a rather trying and forced exercise.

Although the weather was perfect, after two days of chilly, drizzly and grey weather, the clouds seemed

to be floating a bit lower.

Then, I looked out the front window, and up and down the street so many neighbours were out raking their lawns. Every dead leaf was being gathered, every twig picked up, tall brown bags were filled and placed neatly by the curbs.

People leaned on their rakes, congratulating themselves on jobs well done, flashing a subtle thumbs-up to each other. And it's still early April.

Telephone calls from good friends and a concerned daughter and son reminded me the world is a good place in which to be living, but Tom Jones's long ago lyrics repeated, "Then I awake, and look around me, at four grey walls that surround me ..."

And I am on short-term isolation! Hopefully only five days. So many travellers have had to be alone for 14 days. Some long-term care residents have been isolated for months.

If there ever was a doubt, not now. This ongoing global deadly pandemic is a big deal. The physical challenges are immense, but the mental and social costs are unfathomable.



With a forlorn countenance Ross Robinson looks out at the beautiful world he was kept away from while infected with COVID-19. EVAN SAUNDERS

Most people need people in their lives. Yes, students learn math and geography and English, but they also need to learn "people."

I am of an age that makes it impossible to imagine

attending school online. More power to the teachers and students of today for somehow getting through these past two years. How do you do it?

Not to personalize these

ramblings, but let me reflect on how much I miss Aisle 4 and the cashiers at Hendriks Independent Grocer (doesn't quite roll off the tongue yet, does it?)

The brief chitchats, the

masked smiles, the NOT-Lers and the visitors to our town. Yes, I need Honey Nut Cheerios and 2 per cent homogenized milk and cinnamon raisin bread. But above all, I need people.

In no way am I whining or complaining. Just saying out loud, "Isolation is lonely." Seems rather obvious, eh?

Please know I am thinking about my fellows, as we weather this challenge. It's been a weird and long and challenging period of our lives – and it is ongoing.

Let's keep our seatbelts fastened and think about each other more than ourselves.

To ramble to a conclusion, may I say that there have always been challenges, horrible events, miserable situations and atrocities throughout world history. But now, with the internet, television and, for many people, social media, everything is in our face, all day, every day.

Keep yer sticks on the ice, eh? We will be back, stronger and having more fun than before.

Be positive (thinking, not diagnostically).

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# Take a stand: Children's Services **needs volunteers** for camp fundraiser

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report



Family and Children's Services Foundation is teaming up with Mountainview Building Group to raise money for kids to attend camp this summer. SOURCED

Going to summer camp is one of the idyllic events of childhood — time outdoors with friends, learning skills, laughing as the sun goes down and sleeping in tents.

But many kids aren't fortunate enough to enjoy the luxury of summer camps.

Enter Mountainview Building Group and the Family and Children's Services Niagara Foundation. The two organizations are working together to raise money to provide camp for Niagara's youth this summer.

"We're looking for teams from across the entire region to set up lemonade stands and basically ask for donations," Caroline Polgrabia, a Niagara-on-the-Lake realtor and president of the Family and Children's Services Foundation board, told town council during a committee of the whole meeting on Monday.

"That money will go 100 per cent towards sending our kids and our families in need to summer camp," Polgrabia said.

On June 12, the founda-

tion is planning on hosting 100 lemonade stands across the region and hopes to raise \$1,000 at each one.

"\$100,000 is going to create 400-plus big smiles next summer," Polgrabia said.

She is leading presentations to every municipality in Niagara asking for their support and declaration of June 12 as Mountainview LemonAID Day.

Mountainview has provided money to purchase supplies for 100 stands, banners, T-shirts, hats, lemonade concentrate, pitchers and cups. Therefore, everything is already organized for volunteers.

But volunteers are still needed.

Any interested volunteers can go to [facsnagarafoundation.org/mountainview-](https://facsnagarafoundation.org/mountainview-)

lemonaidday and register for a stand.

Stands will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis and will be limited to 100 across the region with about six in Niagara-on-the-Lake, she said.

"But that doesn't preclude anybody from going on and registering and running their own campaign and running their own lemon-

ade stand at the end of their driveway, if that's what they want to do," she said.

Polgrabia is hoping families with kids will sign up. Any child who wants to register needs the permission of a guardian or parent.

Though the stands will be premade, Polgrabia wants teams to get creative.

"We still really encourage the kids to take the base stand that they're getting and decorate it and maybe dress up," she said in an interview with The Lake Report.

"That's where I think the parents can step back and the kids can step up and really decide what their stand's going to look like."

There will be prizes for best decorated stand and most money raised, among others.

This is the first year for the project, which was originally conceived pre-pandemic.

"We've been spending the last two years planning for it and waiting to see whether this was our year and it just seems like the perfect time to launch this type of event. I think people need it," she said.

The idea got unanimous

support from town council, with a motion passing to proclaim June 12 as Mountainview LemonAID Day and pledging the town's assistance with the project in any way possible.

"I'm very supportive of this," Lord Mayor Betty Disero told Polgrabia.

She said she will contact the outlet mall in Glendale for Polgrabia to see if a stand can be set up there and offered her help to contact other interested parties in NOTL.

Money raised will help the foundation set up summer camps for families it works with across the region. Specific camps will be determined on an individual basis by the agency, Polgrabia said.

"It's our first year and we just encourage everyone to get involved," she said.

"One of the tag lines we were toying around with was, 'Helping to make a kid's summer a little sweeter.'"

"I think that works for both kids — the kids that are running the stands can have some fun as well as the kids that are gonna benefit on the back end."

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# Have some fun



**Across**

- 1. Scent (5)
- 4. Dutch canal city (9)
- 10. Lively interest (10)
- 11. Small margin (4)
- 12. Serious warning (3,5)
- 13. Animosity (6)
- 14. Tropical fruit (10)
- 16. Unspecified in number (4)
- 18. Singles (4)
- 20. Place to research (10)
- 23. Throughout (6)
- 25. E.g. Aldrin (8)
- 26. Knave (4)
- 27. Matrimonial lady-in-waiting (10)
- 28. Gun dog (9)
- 29. Customary (5)

**Down**

- 2. Weed (9)
- 3. Lift up (7)
- 5. Intended (5)
- 6. Hardens metal (7)
- 7. Christens again (7)
- 8. Item with exchange value (5)
- 9. Dozing (6)
- 15. Tennis high ball (3)
- 17. Salty cocktail (9)
- 19. Slacker (7)
- 20. Readable (7)
- 21. Subscriber (6)
- 22. Vacuum flask (7)
- 24. Long-continued practice (5)
- 25. Connected series of rooms (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

M	I	R	K	A	S	A	R		
E	X	T	R	E	M	I	S	T	H
S	A	B	P	A	L	E	S	T	I
S	O	L	V	E	P	A	L	E	S
H	I	L	E	E	H	E	W		
A	C	C	E	L	E	R	A	T	E
L	I	P	O	P	O	S	T	U	D
L	I	M	P	O	P	O	S	T	U
O	N	N	E	N	B				
O	W	N	S	M	E	A	S	U	R
R	O	T	S	A	L	L	I	A	N
A	F	T	E	R	L	I	F	E	C
N	O	I	D	E	A	D	G		
G	A	N	J	A	E	X	P	E	N
E	Y	L	D	Y	T	T	R		

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



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# Geological and universe time **very different** than human time



**DR. BROWN**

Dr. William Brown  
Special to The Lake Report

Five billion years ago when our solar system took form, the early sun was surrounded by a vast swirling disc of stardust left over from the collapse and explosions of earlier stars in the neighbourhood.

From that disc, through a process of progressive accretion, the Earth formed more than 4.5 billion years ago.

It would be several hundred million years before Earth settled enough for the earliest signs of life to appear and a further two billion years before photosynthetic cyanobacteria harnessing light energy were able to generate enough oxygen in the seas and atmosphere to support the evolution of high energy dependent mammals and

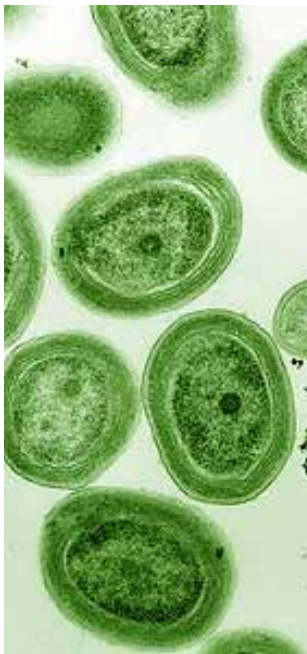
eventually highly complex intelligent life like humans.

That's one of many breathtaking stories recounted by master geologist turned storyteller, Andrew H. Knoll, a Harvard professor in his 2021 book, "A Brief History Of Earth." He traces the more than 4.5-billion year dynamic history of how Earth came to be the world we recognize and offers glimpses of where Earth might be headed in the future.

Knoll reminds us it wasn't so long ago that our ancestors believed that coastlines, mountains and valleys were permanent fixtures of Earth.

That was until findings such as fossilized shark's teeth jutting out of stones in the Tuscan hills, marine fossils buried in limestone at the top of Mount Everest or the Alps, or the close fit between the coastlines of the Americas and Europe and Africa, combined with a growing body of other evidence, suggested a far more changeable and mobile Earth than earlier generations of humans might have imagined.

The fact the eastern seaboard of the Ameri-



Earth's oxygen was produced by photosynthetic cyanobacteria. SUPPLIED

cas seems to fit snugly into the western seaboard on the other side of the Atlantic suggested to a few globe watchers that at one time they might have touched one another. Evidence came in the Second World War when sonar revealed mountains and trenches in the Atlantic seabed and later, in the 1950s, a prominent north-south ridge at the bottom of the Atlantic was found.

Then came evidence that the magnetic polarity of samples flipped several times in samples taken at successively farther westward or eastward intervals from the ridge.

These natural polarity reversals were found to occur at intervals of several hundred thousand years and strongly suggested the Atlantic sea bottom, and hence the Earth's crust, was growing, beginning at the ridge line, and expanding in ribbons of alternating polarity toward the Americas west of the ridge and Eurafica on the other side.

Later studies showed the Earth's crust near the ridge was much younger than successively older samples taken farther away from the ridge. On the scale of human lifetimes, the expansion of the Atlantic is glacially slow – roughly an inch a year. But played out over millions of years, the story is starkly different. The Earth's continents, with the exception of Antarctica, formed a single continent 180 million years ago.

Moreover, the evidence suggests there have been at least five such separa-

tions and contractions of continental tectonic plates in the past and they are slated to continue far into the future for as long as the magma beneath the Earth's crust remains hot enough for convection currents to provide the engine for moving continental plates around.

If Atlantic tectonic plates are growing, somewhere else tectonic plates must be shortening, usually by a process called subduction, whereby one plate is forced beneath an adjacent plate.

That's precisely what's happening in the Pacific, where subduction is taking place beneath the western edge of the Americas and in a ring, which reaches from Alaska, through the Aleutian chain of islands and down the western side of the Pacific to Indonesia. That subduction ring is responsible for a string of volcanoes and the development of mountain ranges, including the Andes in South America.

How can we determine the age of the Earth? Serendipity helps.

Dating from its infancy, the Earth's crust contained

small silica grains, called zircons, some of which contained tiny bits of Uranium 238, which decays to lead with a half-life of 4.47 billion years.

Importantly, there wasn't enough room when the crystals formed for lead to be incorporated. That means any lead found later in those crystals must have come from the decay of Uranium 238.

Using this Uranium 238 clock, geologists were able to date some rocks in riverbeds in Australia containing early zircon crystals as far back as 4.38 billion years. Impressive but probably not the earliest.

That's a brief sample of what's in store for you should you read Knoll's book. For my part, I will view some of those geological wonders with a different eye now and be reminded once more that geological and universe time are very different than human time.

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

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## EXPLORING PHOTOS WITH NOTL MUSEUM



### The Ing family home and business

Besides this being their family home, the Ing family operated a laundry service out of the basement and also sold tickets for the Niagara streetcar here. Today, you can head into this building and enjoy a Balzac's Coffee. The Ing family also operated the Elj restaurant on Queen Street. Classic images like this are on display at the NOTL Museum until the end of April for the Photographic Memory exhibition. The display showcases "then and now" images of the whole community. This image is from the Jim Smith Collection.



ARCHITEXT

#### Blindsided again

Brian Marshall  
Columnist

While investigating the whereabouts of a client's heritage grant I discovered that with no advanced warning or announcement the Region of Niagara had quietly eliminated its heritage grant program. Apparently not to be out done, so too did the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

For those who may not be familiar with this program, it offset the high costs of maintaining or restoring historical elements of a designated (under Part IV or V) property by a maximum amount of \$10,000 equally shared by the town and region via application subject to approval by both the municipal heritage com-

mittee and town council.

Now let's examine those costs using the example of replacing a front door. For those of us who live in a non-designated property, but wish to invest in a statement, it may run to \$10,000 to \$12,000. For the owner of a designated property to have a custom-made, historically accurate reproduction created and installed (as is required on a designated dwelling) that cost can easily push into the \$30,000 range.

So, you say, why should we care? After all, the owners of designated properties made the choice to undertake the additional costs of maintaining a piece of history.

And there-in lies the rub ... each heritage building is an irreplaceable piece of our shared history.

Consider what makes our town unique. Why is it that those of us who "came from away" moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake and further, why do all the tourists (who heavily contribute to our local economy) visit us?

In large part it's the chance of immersion in a unique community wherein history and heritage is alive, well and celebrated.

But now, both tiers of our municipal government (town and region) have ignored this reality and abandoned an important tool in the maintenance of our shared heritage.

Of course, the region has indicated it would participate in the provincial Heritage Property Tax Relief program with any of the lower-tier municipal governments who develop an address within the parameters of this program.

What the region fails to state is that this piece of legislation, passed in 2001, is cumbersome, overly complicated, requiring upfront development investment and ongoing operating costs – the latter two of which come to roost in the annual budget of the local municipality.

Given these facts, is it really a surprise that very few of Ontario's municipalities have engaged with this program?

Here in the Niagara Region only Fort Erie (with nine designated properties) and Port Colborne (less than 20) are enrolled.

Now, if I were a cynical man, I'd suspect this decision by the region was predicated on the belief that

this trend would hold true and their costs in supporting heritage would actually drop significantly.

However, this decision raises a whole series of questions in my mind, especially during an election year.

First, on a local level, how could our elected councillors not have made this a cause celebre when the adverse ramifications on NOTL's economy are clear and present?

Second, on a regional level, why did our representatives (elected and appointed) not fight or appeal this decision at every level including statements to all media publications?

Third, given the legislative direction over the last four years (ie. the recent affordable housing initiative) demonstrates the Ford government is not a friend of heritage, though the Tories do claim to be fans of a lean bureaucracy.

Why then would they not repeal the 2001 legislation and just create a separate tax category (similar to agricultural) for heritage-designated properties?

Unfortunately, simple, efficient and impactful solutions are not what our elected governments are known for.

## Looking to the Stars



### Full moon in Libra can help us understand others more

This week we see Mars enter Pisces and a full moon in Libra.

**Thursday, April 14:** Today Mars moves from futuristic Aquarius into intuitive Pisces. It's not that Mars goes to sleep – he takes action, but in a Piscean way. This means he will act according to circumstances. It means he can easily change his mind, or do one thing now and another thing later. It's not that he's flaky, but from the Piscean angle he has perspective – he can see how everything is connected ... how the flap of the butterfly's wings can cause a tornado. It was April 14, 1865, that Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by actor John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C.

**Friday, April 15:** Since entering Taurus, a few days ago, today marks two events triggered by Mercury. One with Jupiter. Another with Neptune. Good news comes not once, but twice and work, health and money matters are all positively highlighted. Happy birthday #67 to McDonald's Restaurants, which first opened April 15, 1955, in Illinois.

**Saturday, April 16:** Today, we have a full moon in Libra. The full moon is square Pluto in Capricorn and trine Mars and Saturn. Every full moon in Libra is an opportunity to put ourselves into other people's shoes and understand where they're coming from. This full moon in Libra will not only help us have improved relationships, but will also help us understand ourselves better – understand how we are unconsciously projecting some of our qualities onto others. With Pluto, Saturn and Mars engaged, there is a strong pull to do the work – even if that means having some serious conversations or taking an ego blow here and there. Twenty-six editions of the Masters golf tournaments were voiced by television broadcaster Pat Summerall, who died on April 16, 2013, at age 82.

**Sunday, April 17:** Even though it isn't likely a no-brainer, honesty is a must today. Speak your mind and listen. It's a day to learn. It was April 17, 1982, that Canada passed the Constitution Act of 1982, setting in law rights and freedoms for all Canadians, and detailing rules and regulations for amending the act itself.

**Monday, April 18:** Today, Mercury conjuncts Uranus in Taurus and our antennas are up. Mercury-Uranus aspects are those "lightbulb moments" when something becomes clear. There's nothing ambiguous about Taurus. What we see is what we get. As Wordle takes hold of gamblers everywhere, we are reminded that it was April 18, 1924, that Simon & Schuster published the world's first crossword puzzle book.

**Tuesday, April 19:** Late this evening, the Aries part of 2022 comes to an end as the sun moves into Taurus. It's a stubborn end to Aries with a glimpse into your personal future to divert your attention. On April 19, 1927, actress Mae West was arrested, jailed and fined \$500 for her lewd stage performance of a play called "Sex." Upon her release, she moved to Hollywood and became one of the highest-paid stars in show business.

**Wednesday, April 20:** It's Four Twenty Day. Originally a clandestine code for marijuana smokers, it's passe in most places due to changes in the law. With the moon in Sagittarius, square to Jupiter in Pisces, mostly it will feel like a "high" without any artificial assistance. Happy birthday #85 to George Takei, Mr. Sulu from the original "Star Trek" series and a thoughtful voice of Facebook.

Upcoming, we see Venus connect with Neptune and Jupiter and Mercury enter its home sign of Gemini.

**Check out Bill Auchterlonie's podcast, Looking up to the Stars, at [www.lutts.ca](http://www.lutts.ca).**

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# The first flowers of springtime



**GROWING TOGETHER** 

Continued from Front Page

of small, bright yellow flowers late winter to early spring and sometimes is confused with forsythia.

Large, red fruit (drupes) ripens in July. It resembles olives in size and shape. They are used in European cuisine for drinks, syrups, preserves, jams and sauces.

They can be eaten fresh or dried, though they need to be fully ripe in order to lose some of their bitterness. The Cornelian cherry can grow up to 20 feet high and wide, and is hardy to zone 4.

Winter heath (*Erica carnea*) is another shrub that will provide you with flowers late winter through to mid-spring. This evergreen has masses of tiny flowers covering the entire plant.

There are many varieties, with flower colours ranging from white to light pink to magenta and purple. Heath is a low-spreading evergreen growing about 18 inches high and two feet to



Top: A helleborus flower. Bottom: Winter heath. Both are some of the first flowers you can find in spring in Niagara-on-the-Lake. JOANNE YOUNG PHOTOS

three feet wide.

One of the earliest blooming perennials that is commonly grown in the Niagara area is the Lenten rose (*Helleborus*), aptly named as it is often in bloom during the Lent season, prior to Easter.

Although it is considered a perennial, it keeps its

foliage during the winter months as well. As soon as the snow is melting away, the *Helleborus* flowers start to poke their heads out.

There are many different varieties available and many different flower colours from white to apple green to light pinks through to almost black. Flowers are

long-lasting. *Helleborus* loves a shadier, moist area and benefits from the addition of lime around its roots. They are hardy to zone 5.

Siberian bugloss (*Brunnera*) is another early-blooming perennial that thrives in a part shade location. It sports large, heart-shaped leaves with tiny, light blue, forget-me-not-like flowers in early spring.

Some of the varieties have two-toned leaves – green veining and edges and silver in between the leaves making them a showy plant in multiple seasons. Two varieties of special note are “Jack Frost” and “Alexander’s Great.”

Primroses are another old-time perennial favourite that always indicates the arrival of spring.

Its cheery clusters of brightly coloured flowers coupled with a sweet scent make this plant a welcome addition to the front of the part shade border. Flower colours range from lemon yellow to shades of pink to magenta to purples and reds. Primroses prefer a moist, but well-drained soil.

By adding some of these plants into your garden, along with spring flowering bulbs, you will be welcoming spring into your homes that much sooner – and who wouldn’t want that?

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

## Obituary

### Mariana Marlene Walther (1950–2022)



Mariana Marlene Walther passed away peacefully and surrounded by family on April 4, 2022. Marlene will be deeply missed by her devoted husband of over 50 years, Roland, her loving sons, Stefan and Mark, and her cherished daughter-in-law, Larisa.

Teaching was Marlene’s great passion and it gave her pleasure when she could help others learn.

Marlene began her career in education in Sioux Lookout, Ontario. She then taught for 25 years for the Lakehead Board of Education in Thunder Bay, completed her Master in Education degree, and became Business Chair at Westgate High School. A big career highlight was teaching the children of the Canadian Forces in Lahr, Germany, working for the Department of National Defence in the mid-1980s. This also gave the Walthers the opportunity to visit and really become acquainted with their large German family including Roland’s mother, four sisters and brother. Another milestone came in 2001 when Marlene was honoured by being nominated and receiving the Prime Minister’s Award for Teaching Excellence; family joined her for the ceremony on Parliament Hill where the award was personally presented by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. Always looking for adventure and challenges, Marlene pursued further teaching opportunities in the Middle East after retirement.

Marlene met her husband, Roland, “the rock of her life,” at a night-school art class when she was 18. They spent more than 50 wonderful years together, raising their two sons, and supporting each other while working and travelling around the world.

Welcoming visitors into her home to experience the Walther hospitality, accentuated by her husband’s delicious German cooking, gave Marlene much pleasure — she loved being a hostess and tour guide, enthusiastically introducing their family and friends to the many places they called home: Thunder Bay and Lake Superior, Germany and Europe, Qatar, Abu Dhabi and the Emirates, the Fraser Valley in British Columbia, and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Marlene enjoyed teaching and playing bridge and was very active with the game in Niagara-on-the-Lake. In 2010, she started her website, ATeacherFirst.com, to help people learn bridge. Players from around the world have purchased, and continue to purchase, her Bridge Pocket Guide and other online offerings. Her legacy will live on, as her family is continuing the popular website. Marlene also enjoyed playing tennis and Mahjong.

Marlene spent her last 15 years in Niagara-on-the-Lake and thoroughly enjoyed all it has to offer: great restaurants and wineries, a gentler climate, active social groups and wonderful friends. She was an avid theatre lover and volunteered for the Shaw Festival since she moved to NOTL in 2007, serving as an usher, docent, membership chair, garden sitter, and helping in many other ways. She served on the NOTL Newcomers Board, as treasurer, then president, and webmaster.

A Celebration of Life will occur this summer for family and close friends in Marlene’s favourite place, her beautiful garden.

Marlene loved and was surrounded by animals her whole life, she was particularly fond of cats. For those wishing to offer condolences or a tribute, the family would greatly appreciate a donation to the Niagara SPCA and Humane Society: [www.NiagaraSPCA.com](http://www.NiagaraSPCA.com).

## Ask the expert: Is this weed dangerous?

Lake Report reader Cynthia Rand wrote our master gardener Joanne Young with a question about a weed she found in her yard and she sent along a photo of it:

### Cynthia’s question

“A very interesting plant appeared last year in my garden, about four feet high, a very red stalk, long oval pointed leaves and a columnar shaped group of red berries. I did dig it up and the root was shaped like that of a parsnip.

A few seedlings appeared in another part of the garden so I guess it will spread. If it is innocuous I’ll tend it be-



A photo of the specimen in question. Expert Joanne Young says the plant, pokeweed, can cause severe poisoning.

cause it was attractive, but if it is one of those poisonous invaders, maybe we had better warn people.”

### Joanne Young’s answer

“Thank you for your good description of your mystery plant. Even before I saw the photo, I figured that your

mystery plant was Indian (or American) Pokeweed.

Your photo confirmed that is exactly what it is. Although pokeweed can cause severe poisoning in humans, livestock and pets, Indigenous people once used this plant as a

heart stimulant and as a narcotic.

The plant also contains a protein that has been shown to have a positive impact on HIV, a precursor to the AIDS virus. Because all parts of the plant are poisonous, I would highly recommend that you get rid of it especially, if you have kids or grandchildren visiting your garden.”

### Cynthia’s response

“Pity! It is rather attractive and it is native, but I do have a five-year-old grandson. Thank you. I am very impressed with your quick recognition.”



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