



Chocolate bunnies spread Easter cheer
Page 3



Smile stones spread positivity

Story on Pages 6-7

Smile stones can be found all around the Chautauqua neighbourhood. RICHARD HARLEY

Outbreak at NOTL long-term care residence could be COVID-19, results not back yet

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Public health officials are investigating a “respiratory outbreak” at a Niagara-on-the-Lake long-term care home, says the region’s acting chief medical officer of health.

It’s not yet known if the

outbreak at Niagara Long Term Care (formerly Chartwell) is due to COVID-19, said Dr. Mustafa Hirji.

“The samples for the tests have been collected from several residents and sent off. We don’t have the COVID-19 result yet,” he said

Continued on Page 3

NOTL’s summertime fruit festivals cancelled

Strawberry, cherry and peach festivals a no-go due to COVID-19

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Almost all of NOTL’s major annual summer festivals and events are a no-go as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The strawberry, cherry and peach festivals, Rotary Canada Day celebrations and the NOTL Horticultural Society garden tours have all been disrupted, to name a few.

As of this week, the TD Niagara Jazz Festival is one of the only major mid-summer festivals still holding off on making a decision, as executive director Juliet Dunn is hoping things might improve before the July 16 event.

Music Niagara, which brings world-class musicians to venues all around Niagara, has postponed its major fundraiser, Big

Night, which was scheduled for June 6.

As well, the festival’s board of directors is reviewing its options for the summer festival, “including online alternatives to keep the music alive for our community,” said Music Niagara chair Margot Hickson.

Rev. Maureen Ellison, minister of Grace United Church, said the Harvest

Festival is “so far out” that no decision has been made about it yet.

“We’re the last festival of summer, so it might be possible,” she told The Lake Report. “If we had a crystal ball, things would be a bit more clear.”

For now, the church is holding off on making any concrete decisions, but

Continued on Page 2

SORE reprimanded for confidentiality violation

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

The community group Save Our Rand Estate has been reprimanded for violating confidentiality rules set out by the Conservation Review Board during settlement proceedings in a dispute with developer Benny Marotta.

Members of SORE met with representatives of Solmar Development Corp. for a visit to the Rand



The Conservation Review Board was critical of SORE.

Estate on March 9, during which photos were taken of the interior of the main Rand Estate building. One photo showed the interior

Continued on Page 2

Take our COVID survey

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Absolutely everyone, everywhere has been touched in some way by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It has turned our world upside down, changed how we live and interact, and might have forever altered how society functions.

Handshakes, anyone? Have a cough? Wear a mask. Large crowds? Will people try to avoid them?

The Lake Report wants to know how everyone in Niagara-on-the-Lake is coping at this unprecedented time and we’ve designed a brief survey so that you

can give us your thoughts and opinions.

We encourage each individual in your NOTL household to fill out the very short questionnaire we’ve designed. As an incentive, everyone completing the questionnaire will be eligible for a draw for dinner for two at a NOTL restaurant – once life resumes in the post-COVID era.

Please go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/notlCOVID to complete the survey. Your responses will remain totally confidential and we plan to include a summary of the results in the paper as soon as possible.

Opinion: Racist attitudes a common occurrence

This opinion piece is in response to last week’s story in The Lake Report about accusations of racial profiling of migrant workers by some businesses in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Yvonne Bredow
Special to The Lake Report

I am a relative newcomer to Niagara-on-the-Lake, but in my six-plus years here,

I have had more than my share of racially charged encounters.

I am half-black, half-German and was born and raised in Toronto, where all cultures are widely accepted and even celebrated.

That is in contrast to my experience in NOTL, where, unless you are white, you stand out and in the eyes of far too many you are considered unequal to the majority

of the people who live here.

Of course, not everyone in NOTL acts this way. But, for a person of colour, it happens just often enough and is prevalent enough to make it clear that we are outsiders, don’t belong, are different.

Sadly, people who are aware of this happening often tend to excuse it, ignore it, prefer that it be swept under the rug and forgotten.

I am writing this to make it clear that, while Niagara-on-the-Lake may be a beautiful, serene community, for any visible minority or person of colour, life here can be very ugly at times.

I have lived in many cities and small towns but have never witnessed nor felt such racism as I do here in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Continued on Page 4



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NOTL man **evacuated** from Nepal

Richard Harley
The Lake Report



Connor Crickmore.

After a lot of uncertainty, and nearly \$3,500, Connor Crickmore is back home from Nepal.

The 29-year-old NOTL resident and world-traveller had been stuck in Kathmandu as a result of COVID-19 travel restrictions, after hiking through the mountains in Nepal. He arrived home Sunday after the Canadian government co-ordinated a plane to evacuate him and about 200 other Canadians.

While Crickmore said the important thing is that he's home, getting here wasn't a smooth and easy process. There was a lot of confusion over which flight they'd be getting, and a third-party booking agent, he said.

"I found out we were getting a flight out on Sunday, April 5, but nothing was confirmed and booked until Friday, April 10, the day before our flight," he said. "We were supposed to have the flight on April 8 but never heard anything back

from the government.

It wasn't until last Thursday that he received an email asking those interested to send photos of their passports and credit cards to a third-party booking agent.

"This made a lot of us nervous because Canada used the same process in India and it led to credit card fraud as many people received duplicate emails from scammers," Crickmore said. "The process of using a third-party booking agent instead of directly with the government or airline is still baffling to many of us."

He said after he sent

photos of his credit card and passport, the next day he had to book on Qatar Airlines website anyway. Further complicating things, the airline website crashed for "a large portion of the day as well," Crickmore said.

"The whole process was nerve-racking and there's still so many aspects that could have been handled differently and better, quite frankly."

He said the plane was mostly full of Canadians, along with some Australians who switched planes in Qatar.

The whole trip took more than 35 hours.

"After flying from Kathmandu for six hours to Doha, where we laid over for 16 hours, we flew another 13 hours to Montreal. There, I cleared immigration and then waited for a flight to Toronto."

When he arrived in Toronto, his mom Shari Hartwick and his stepfather had driven two cars so he could drive back.

"They threw me the keys for one and I drove back to

Niagara-on-the-Lake where I am now in 14-day quarantine in a friend's vacation rental house near the golf course," Crickmore said.

The \$3,500 trip cost caused "a lot of Canadians to refuse the flight out of Nepal due to the financial impossibility of that amount, especially if they had to fly a whole family home," Crickmore said.

He said the Canadian government offered a loan to help offset the cost, but nothing was subsidized.

"However, this is definitely a situation of 'beggars can't be choosers,' and ultimately the Canadian government didn't owe us a subsidized flight cost."

He said he's happy to be back home.

"(I) can't thank enough those that have contributed in some way to that being made possible. Special thanks to my mom, who has been working tirelessly to get in touch with government officials, and members of the media to help bring me home."

SORE email **scolded** by Conservation Review Board

Continued from Front Page

had been stripped down to the studs.

SORE subsequently posted at least one picture online and shared it via an email blast to subscribers.

Publicizing the photos was a breach of agreed-to confidentiality provisions and might have compromised the entire settlement process, the review board stated in a ruling.

The board said, "SORE's actions could also lead parties to doubt SORE's intention to work in good faith in reaching a settlement. Sending an e-blast which includes pictures of the subject properties in dispute in this proceeding while the parties are in active settlement discussions has the real potential of disrupting the chance to reach a settlement."

SORE was ordered to remove the pictures from its website, to ask anyone who received the email to



A stone arch near the Rand Estate. FILE PHOTO

delete it and to post a notice on its website stating that it had violated the conservation board's confidentiality rules.

In its email blast on March 19, SORE said its heritage experts "inspected the Rand Estate last week and were shocked and dismayed to discover that virtually the entire interior of the Rand House has been demolished."

In its ruling, the review board said it recognizes "the seriousness of this breach and is concerned that the integrity of the process going forward may be compromised."

Almost all town festivals **cancelled** due to pandemic

Continued from Front Page

is hoping the festival can still happen.

The mid-June strawberry fest at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church traditionally kicks off the summer fruit festival season in NOTL.

However, festival co-ordinator Julie Hunter informed the congregation this week that the church is abiding by the town's emergency declaration and cancelling the event.

At least one festival is hoping to hold an alternative fundraising community event later in the year, likely around Christmastime.

Ben Buholtz, who helps oversee the Cherry Festival at St. Mark's Anglican Church, said organizers are planning a large Christmas market this year in lieu of the annual July cherry fest. In addition, plans are afoot

NOTL copes with COVID-19

Here is a list of NOTL events cancelled so far:

- Strawberry Festival (St. Andrew's)
- Cherry Festival (St. Mark's)
- Peach Festival (St. Vincent de Paul)
- Rotary Canada Day celebrations
- Shaw Festival season (until at least June 30)
- NOTL Horticultural Society Garden Tour
- Shaw Guild Garden Tour
- Rotary Holiday House Tour
- Virgil Stampede
- St. Davids Lions Carnival

Know of an event we missed?
Send an email to editor@niagaranow.com.

for a jewellery sale at St. Mark's in the fall.

With the town, region and province all declaring states of emergency, "Unfortunately at this time it seems unlikely we will have enough time" to organize the July 1 cel-

ebrations, NOTL Rotary Club president John Boot said via email.

Among their activities, the Rotarians help out at the July 1 party by cooking pancakes and hosting a popular barbecue. "Maybe we'll celebrate a

month or two later."

However, Boot is confident some kind of Canada Day celebrations "will likely go on one way or another, even if we have to celebrate it virtually."

Rotary's Holiday House Tour has also been cancelled for this year.

St. Vincent de Paul's Rev. Randy Gallant said the decision to cancel its Peach Festival, which normally takes place in August, was made to protect people and the public, as well as due to uncertainty about timelines for planning the event.

"There's things that we would be wanting to get organized sooner than later, and the town itself is closed down until June 30," he said. "We can't wait till July 1st to start putting something together for August."

Even if it wasn't cancelled, he expects people would still be nervous

about travelling or being in big crowds.

"It's probably not going to be as well-attended as it normally is for any of the festivals here in NOTL. Who wants to be around crowds? Like even the churches ... I don't think when they open everything up it's not going to be filled up like it was before. People are still going to be concerned about gathering in groups and social distancing and all that stuff. So it's a learning curve for all of us, for sure."

He said he's expecting a different experience in NOTL this tourist season.

"It's probably going to be a completely different summer in Niagara-on-the-Lake from what we're used to. So, I think we're all going to experience that this summer, even if they lift some of these restrictions and things, it's just not going to be the

same type of a summer that we've had in the past here."

It's disappointing, Gallant said, but everyone is in the same boat.

"There are a lot of people who are disappointed over things that they've had to cancel or change or move or re-book. I mean we're going through uncharted waters right now. And it is very fluid, it changes from day to day, hour to hour."

He said he and the peach festival committee hope to come back bigger and better in 2021.

The NOTL Chamber of Commerce also holds a peach festival in August but chamber officials did not respond to requests for information.

The news of the cancellations comes after decisions by various organizations to also cancel the Virgil Stampede and the St. Davids Lions Carnival.



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Chocolate bunnies spread Easter cheer

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Some of Niagara-on-the-Lake's front-line workers got an extra special delivery from the town's volunteer firefighters on Saturday — chocolate bunnies.

The gesture was co-ordinated by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Outlet Collection at Niagara, to help make good use of an abundance of Easter chocolate bunnies from Lindt and Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory that would otherwise have gone to waste.

The bunnies were delivered by Niagara-on-the-Lake firefighters Brad Disher and Colin Hunter to paramedics, firefighters, pharmacies and grocery store workers across town, and a few places in Niagara Falls. NOTL farmers were also given chocolate for their farm workers, many of whom are still in isolation since arriving in Canada.

Farmers from across Niagara started out the morning by picking up some bunnies at the Virgil



NOTL copes with COVID-19
Brad Disher (left) and Colin Hunter (right) drop off chocolate bunnies to Irma Goulet for the staff at Phil's Valu-mart in Virgil. RICHARD HARLEY

fire station. It was a parking lot stakeout, with Nickel Farms, Wiens Farms, Hunter Farms, Van de Laar Vineyards, Froese Farms, Chateau des Charmes and more loading up on chocolate.

After that, Disher and Hunter headed across town to personally deliver the bunnies.

Disher said Lauren Kruitbosch, the town's community engagement co-ordinator, was the "quarterback" on getting things arranged.

He said it was nice to get out and do something good for people in the community during these tough times.

"Any time we get a chance to go and help the

community, we usually jump at the chance," Disher said.

Brad Nickel, owner of Nickel Farms, was appreciative of the gesture. He has several farm workers in isolation and the chocolate will make them "really feel appreciated and welcomed to Canada," he said.

Coun. Erwin Wiens thanked Lindt and Rocky Mountain for the chocolate, and praised the community for its "awesome" coming together during the pandemic.

"People are getting to a point now where they're saying, 'I'm going to work together as a community,'" he said. "I hate this pan-

demic like the next guy, but is not everybody pulling together? It brings a tear to your eye," he said.

Joanne Ross, general manager of the Outlet Collection, said the morning was all about spreading some good cheer.

"We had two retailers sitting on just an excess amount of chocolate. And I made some calls to both Lindt and Rocky Mountain to see what we can do to spread some good cheer to the community. And we put together a whole list of charities and food banks," Ross said.

"A special thanks to the Niagara fire department as well and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake for all of their help and assistance in making this happen. It literally came together in 24 hours."

She said in total there were about 2,300 chocolates delivered.

Stores that received chocolates for their staff and families included Phil's and Hendriks' Valu-marts, Stone Road Pharmacy, Simpson's Pharmasave and Harvest Barn.

'Respiratory' outbreak at NOTL longterm care home could be COVID-19, results not yet in

Continued from Front Page

late Wednesday afternoon. "It certainly could be, but it could be one of many other viruses."

The samples were collected Tuesday and the results should be known by Thursday, he said.

"There's some individuals who have developed symptoms. In case it might be infectious, they have been isolated and we're undergoing testing to figure out what might be the cause of the infection," Hirji said.

Long-term care residences across the country have been major sources of COVID-19 outbreaks and nearly half of all deaths in Canada have occurred in care facilities.

"The starting point really for any of these is detecting if there is an outbreak at



Niagara LTC Residence (formerly Chartwell Niagara) is facing a respiratory outbreak. JESSICA MAXWELL

all," Hirji said in explaining how outbreaks are handled.

"And so what staff at a long-term care facility do is that they're checking in on their patients or residents at least once a day, if not more often, to see, is there any change in their health, are they developing symptoms?"

"If they're developing respiratory symptoms, that's, of course, a potential concern it could be COV-

ID-19. And so the first thing that's done is that those individuals are isolated to their room, so that there's no additional contact with other people."

Any staff entering that room will wear personal protective equipment which they dispose of once they leave that room so there's no contamination, he said.

He noted there are currently outbreaks of different

respiratory viruses in addition to COVID-19.

So the NOTL patients are being tested for "about 10 different respiratory viruses, which are the most common ones that can occur. One of the tests is, of course, also for COVID-19."

Deaths in long-term care homes from COVID-19 are a "tragedy we are seeing everywhere," Hirji said.

"I think these kinds of settings are kind of a perfect nexus of where the virus is going to transmit easily and the individuals are going to get severe infections. So you have a large number of people living in the same building in relatively close quarters, possibly with frequent interaction, so a virus that starts to spread can spread through that group,"

Continued on Page 5



Town Urges Compliance to COVID-19 Preventative Measures and Emergency Orders

As the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's State of Emergency continues, and we enter this next phase of crisis management, we urge residents and businesses to comply with Emergency Orders implemented by the Provincial Government and preventative measures laid out by public health officials.

Practice physical distancing, wash your hands, don't touch your face, disinfect high touch surfaces and do not leave your home unless it is absolutely necessary. Anyone who has recently travelled must self-isolate for 14 days and non-essential businesses must close.

All outdoor recreational amenities are closed. Green spaces remain open for walk through purposes but gatherings of more than five are prohibited. Remember, the virus doesn't travel, people do.

Community members looking to report a business or individual(s) operating in contravention of Emergency Orders, are asked to contact Niagara-on-the-Lake By-law Enforcement by email (covidcomplaints@notl.com), phone (905-468-3266), or online complaint form at notl.com. After hours complaints or urgent issues can be reported to the Niagara Regional Police Services non-emergency line at 905-688-4111

To review all Town updates related to COVID-19, read answers to frequently asked questions, and see up-to-date information on the status of Town services, please visit www.notl.com/COVID-19, or call 905-468-3266. Town Staff will continue to assist and serve citizens online and over the phone between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM Monday to Friday.

For immediate alerts, follow the Town on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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Design & Layout: Richard Harley
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Contributors: Brittany Carter, Dariya Baiguzhiyeva, Jessica Maxwell, Jill Troyer, Tim Taylor, Denise Ascenzo, Linda Fritz, Dr. William Brown, Brian Marshall, Susan Des Islets, Jim Smith, Jaclyn Wilms, Collin Goodine, Leslie Moulson, Steve Hardaker, Plunger Patrol, Ross Robinson, Tim Carroll, NOTL Writers' Circle, Lisa Tache, Megan Vanderlee, and many more members of the NOTL community



Contributed by Patty Garriock

“Don’t hurry, don’t worry. You’re only here for a short visit so be sure to stop and smell the flowers.” – Walter Hagen.



Contributed by Norm Arsenaault:

Combine all your plastic bags and wraps into one single bag and tied them up. Put the tied bag in the grey bin on top of your paper products. Don’t recycle them loosely. They clog up equipment and slow down the recycling process!!

Editorial: Town overcoming new challenges

Richard Harley
Editor-in-Chief

NOTL copes with COVID-19

Whether we’re sick or not, we’re all feeling the global symptoms of COVID-19.

We’re all cooped up, nobody really knows when this will end, and it’s easy to get worried about just about everything. And rightfully so — we all have different challenges to overcome, on top of trying not to get or spread a deadly virus. Some have lost family, friends and some have been sick themselves.

But while each of our situations is different, there’s one thing almost all have in common: they’re all new.

Everybody has had to adapt to this new world in some fashion, at the same

time. And, in many ways, this shared obstacle seems to be bringing out the best in us.

So, let’s all continue to do our part to stay safe, and ...

Kudos to Lindt, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, the Outlet Collection at Niagara, the Town of NOTL, and, last but not least, our volunteer firefighters, for coming together to spread some joy in the community by delivering chocolates all over town.

Kudos to the mystery person putting out positivity stones around town. Your smile message is inspiring people to stay positive. And

kudos to all of the Chautauqua kids and parents who are taking it to a whole new level by painting their own stones.

Kudos to the committees of the many festivals that have been sadly cancelled. We are sure the decisions have not been easy. In our coverage of town events, we get to see first-hand how much dedication goes into making them special. It’s safe to say NOTL will be here for you when things have cleared up and we’re allowed to gather again.

Kudos to everyone who has donated to the GoFundMe to support The Lake

Report. And kudos again to Chef Ryan Crawford for setting it up on our behalf. So far we’ve raised \$4,545 of our \$30,000 goal. Kudos also to anyone who donates after this, too. Every little bit helps us keep the news coming.

And, last but certainly not least, kudos to our front-line workers. Our nurses, doctors, pharmacists, volunteers, mask-makers, grocery store workers, gas station attendants, farm workers, people working the take-out windows ... the list goes on.

While we all do our best to beat this, let’s make sure we remember the great community we’re a part of, and let that help keep our spirits high.

editor@niagaranow.com



Take your recycling home

Dear editor:

I find it very embarrassing when I walk into our local post office and find the mess of people’s unwanted junk mail, flyers, our local newspapers etc. that has been left on the counters.

I don’t think it should be the responsibility of the post office staff to have to pick up after us, especially at this time in our lives when we are asked to have as little contact with others.

We are putting the post office staff at risk by making them handle the reams and reams of somebody else’s trash.

It’s not asking too much for each person to sort through the complete contents of their mailbox in the lobby if necessary, but then take whatever you don’t want home and put it in your own recycle box.

Ward Simpson
NOTL



OPINION: I’ve never felt as much racism as I do in NOTL

Continued from Front Page

Working in Old Town, I have heard the N-word used openly in reference to non-whites, have been called nicknames like “Buckwheat” by a colleague and have seen overt and purposeful discrimination all quietly aimed at black customers.

“THEY must be tourists because they most certainly don’t live here.” I cannot count how often I have heard variations of that line.

But it is not restricted to the quaint stores of the main tourist district. Not long



Yvonne Bredow.

after I moved to Queenston a neighbour inquired if I cleaned homes for a living. In another case, a different neighbour, a woman whom I considered a friend and whom I had helped out in a time of need, introduced me as her “housekeeper”

when I attended a celebratory family function. Not “friend,” not “neighbour,” not “Yvonne.” I was just a housekeeper.

“Hey Buckwheat! Pass me that.” Excuse me? “Hey Buckwheat, pass me that!” That was my co-worker speaking to me at my place of employment.

“Follow those ladies around the store. They only use the front changeroom!” The women my colleague was referring to were black.

When I informed the company’s human resources department, within a month

I was fired.

I was let go for letting the company know I was called inappropriate names, was told to follow black women around the store (but never white women, or anyone else), and for revealing that black women were being put into specific changerooms, so store management could keep an eye on them. This is now part of an ongoing human rights racial discrimination case.

Working in NOTL is fun, exciting and feeds my soul. The tourists are wonderful – and colour blind.

But some residents I have come across have no problem using the N-word in front of me. Or one, when commenting about their daughter using slang, suggesting, “They must be spending too much time with you.”

Or, the genteel, “You could pass for white if your hair was straightened.”

Or, “Just don’t tell people you are black.”

But I should not have to hide my heritage, be ashamed of it, or apologize for it. I am me. I am black.

It breaks my heart. In

Toronto or other large cities, the variety of cultures is like spices in a very large soup. It’s aromatic, delicious, warming and inviting.

NOTL seems more like cabbage and potatoes. No spice, no aroma. Just plain cabbage and potatoes.

People like me are here to add some spice to that plain soup mix. But we are not:

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OPINION

Dr. Brown: COVID and long term care



Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

I recently wrote an article in this paper about priorities in the face of limited technical and human resources in this pandemic.

Those decisions were and are being made on the fly, in a pandemic where we're still learning about the biology of the SARS-COV-2 virus (commonly known as COVID-19) and important questions remain unanswered.

Does exposure to the virus confer lasting immunity, for the young, the old, if not, for how long? And, related to that question, what's the most effective test for revealing the presence of antibodies, which indicate previous exposure to the virus?

When will an effective long-lasting vaccine be widely available in sufficient quantities to protect millions of those at risk, those now in quarantine, front-line health care providers and the wider public?

What's the most effective test for detecting those carrying the virus? When will such tests become freely and widely available?

What are the most effective tools for identifying those patients, most at risk for developing severe

NOTL copes with COVID-19

complications? What are the long-term consequences for those who recover from COVID-19 infections?

Is there any evidence that the virus has mutated to become more lethal in the course of this pandemic, and if so, where and what might those mutations be? Why is the disease so lethal for older patients and those with chronic medical conditions such as hypertension, heart disease, diabetes and chronic lung diseases – and conversely why, except for a few, are the young spared? All excellent questions awaiting answers.

One of the most pressing challenges associated with this pandemic, is the way it has devastated long-term care facilities such as retirement homes, assisted living facilities and homes populated with patients with neurodegenerative diseases such as the dementias in all their forms.

The experience in much of Europe, the United Kingdom, New York City and now Canada highlight these challenges. For example, the Globe and Mail's headline on April 14 was, "Nearly half of virus deaths linked to long-term care centres." The number of COVID-19 related deaths is staggering but not surprising.

This virus is highly infectious and most long-term care facilities simply don't have the staff to promote or enforce social distancing, given the closed space nature

of most facilities where most elderly patients are warehoused these days.

Once the COVID-19 infection reaches the wider community it's very difficult, even in a lockdown situation where visitors, including spouses, are prevented from visiting patients, to prevent the virus gaining access to the closed, highly vulnerable community without effective testing.

The problem is that what has passed for testing staff and others at risk for bringing the virus into the facilities is a questionnaire about symptoms and looking for a fever. That just isn't sensitive enough. The reason is that infected people, especially the young, often have no symptoms or fever for five to 14 days, during which they can infect others and contaminate surfaces.

The best test is a nose/throat swab to detect the RNA signature of the virus. That's what works. Unfortunately, because of poor planning in Europe and now North America, that kind of repeated on-the-job testing isn't available. So, unless all caregivers and, for that matter, anyone with indirect access such as administrative staff and others for example delivering supplies, are regularly tested for the virus, facilities have no effective way of knowing who's infected and who isn't.

Without that kind of testing, it's only a matter of time before this virus gains a hold

in the petri-dish like patient communities characteristic of most long-term care facilities. We certainly can't blame the long-term care facilities for testing failures and hence this virus gaining a hold.

Most long-term care facilities were never designed, nor the staff trained, for the extraordinary challenges presented by this virus. Unfortunately for patients and perhaps some staff, there will be more deaths before this is over.

We were warned that this might happen by earlier encounters with coronaviruses, including SARS-COV1 and MERS, and the international community should have been better prepared for this disaster around the world. Rest assured more pandemics will follow, potentially far worse, especially if whatever the virus is attacks all age groups.

Full disclosure: my wife has dementia and lives in a long-term care facility in Niagara-on-the-Lake. My experience has been that the staff are excellent – underpaid and overworked for what from my observations is a very difficult job, now made far worse by this disease which poses a real risk to them, the same way other health care workers may be at risk.

Dr. William Brown is a professor of neurology at McMaster University and co-founder of the Infohealth series held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.

Respiratory outbreak investigated in NOTL

Continued from Page 3

he said.

He also noted "long-term care homes generally work on fairly tight budgets. That means that there's not a lot of specialized capacity that can be hired for infection control purposes."

While the staff in care homes all have the basic training on infection control, they don't have the "dedicated capacity that can really help out when

there's a more acute problem. As well, because they are tight on budgets, they often have a fairly transient staff."

Some long-term care staff work in more than one facility, but the province has now ordered that practice to stop due to the pandemic.

"Depending on the physical structures at some of these locations, it can be harder to isolate someone effectively," Hirji said.

Then if staff also become

ill, "they might be well enough to work, because you don't want them spreading an infection. That makes all of those staffing challenges more acute."

When a facility is in the midst of an outbreak, there's all kinds of additional measures that need to be put in place, so staff are working extra hard during those periods and unfortunately sometimes errors could possibly be made," he said.

Those are some of the

"underlying issues that unfortunately we are seeing with long-term care homes and I think they become much more acute with the COVID-19 outbreak."

While COVID-19 outbreaks are bad news and get a lot of attention, Hirji said, "We have had two outbreaks end in the last couple of days, where they had very few infections, things were well-controlled. And so there's definitely some good news stories here as well."

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The Lake Report

The Lake Report's community calendar is postponed because of mass cancellation of events due to COVID-19.

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Image Detail: Tom Thomson, Twilight, pre-1914 Collection of Samuel E. Weir ©RiverBrink Art Museum

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Left: Eliana McManus holds one of her painted positivity stones. Right: Marty and Ty Sherlock show off stones they've painted.

Painted stones spread positive

Mystery rock painter inspires kids to start making their own me

Richard Harley
 The Lake Report

NOTL copes with COVID-19

Smile, love and stay calm — those are just a few of the messages circulating in one Niagara-on-the-Lake neighbourhood after someone started leaving out stones with notes of positivity.

And the mystery rock painter has inspired a bunch of kids from the Chautauqua neighbourhood to start painting their own messages of hope.

Eliana McManus, 11, said when she first saw the stones on the weekend she was inspired to start painting her own. She thought they were "cute" and "really loved the idea," she said, because it was a positive message she wanted to get behind.

"I wanted to add on to them and I told my friend Molly and she saw them and she wanted to add on to them, too," Eliana said.

So far Eliana has put out about 14 stones, she said, and she likes to write the word "love" the most.

Her dad, Patrick McManus, said she was "pretty determined about it" and painted for a couple of hours off and on.

Eli's can be identified because she uses "lots of dots in them," she said. "I think almost all of them have little dots in or outside of them."

The stones are helping kids around the neighbourhood find something extra to occupy them-

selves while they're off school due to COVID-19.

"Well, it's something to do," Eli said. "I got new paints for my birthday and I haven't used them a lot, so I wanted to try it out. And since we live so close to the beach there's so many rocks."

It's also about spreading a positive message to the community, she said.

"It couldn't be more beautiful considering the circumstances," said Tara Rosling, Eliana's mom. "Because they're kind of infusing the neighbourhood with magic and hope and beauty."

Tara and Patrick said whoever

started putting the

remains a mystery.

"Everybody thinks it's me," Tara said. "It feels like at the end of a community act. It's a community gesture, now it's an act. And everybody does it, so it feels really heartening."

Chautauquans Marty Sherlock, 13 and Ty Sherlock, 9 noticed the stones outside in their yard and got behind the mystery.

Marty was particularly inspired by a rock she saw with a purple and blue colour blend.

They've been working on it like "Everything is possible" and "Create your own future."

During this time of uncertainty, please remember to support the local businesses.

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I am constantly overlooked by everyone but everyone has me. What am I?

Last Week: I go up and never come down. What am I?

Answer: Age

Also accepted: Heat

Answered first by: Margie Enns

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Kathy Neufeld, Margaret Garaughty, Sylvia Wiens, Pam Dowling, Janice Hall, Ray Rempel, Katie Reimer

Email answers, with your name, to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to win a prize.

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messages around NOTL

Messages to stay busy and spread cheer in the neighbourhood

stones around
It's everybody

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It was a commu-
it's a community
ly's getting in on
special. It's very

Marty and Ty
said they
while playing
rd and decided to
vement.

particularly inspired
with an ombre

Writing messages
s going to be OK"
own sunshine."

"I was like, that's really cool, because I feel like everyone is going to the negative side of this, and then (the mystery person) was bringing out the positive," she said.

"I feel like if I was someone else I'd want to see that during this time," Marty said.

"While I'm on the couch," Ty added cheekily.

They both said they think it's just a positive gesture.

"If everyone looks at the negative, then I guess everyone is going to be negative. And negativity isn't a good thing. And if you're positive, I guess it kind of makes it better, even though it's bad," Marty said.

Marty, Ty and Eli are all using acrylic paints, they said, so their stones are water-resistant.

"We like to make ours with bright colours, like I did mine with lime green so people can notice it," Marty said.

They said they're in positive spirits and enjoying time off school, though Marty says she's missing being around other people.

"I don't miss the school work, but I'd kind of rather be doing school work at school than at home," Marty said.

Ty said he likes being at home because he can play video games.

Their mom, Steph Tribe, said painting the rocks is helping the days go by a bit faster.

"We go out for walks, spend a lot of time together," she said.

Another inspired rock painter,

Molly Cummings, 12, said she thought it was "a lovely idea to spread some love when we are not allowed to be together."

Like the rest, she and her father Jeff are also trying to figure out who started rock party.

To Molly, painting the rocks is more than just something to do.

"It means participating in spreading love throughout the town," she said. "It's hope to give to others."

Jeff said it's great seeing the positivity stones spread throughout the town.

"They are little treasures waiting to be found on our daily walks.

They are becoming something to look forward to, and we are all now more than ready for something to look forward to."

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I also want to say a big thank you to everyone who is working during this time to keep our community safe - we will not forget what you've done for us.

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Have some fun

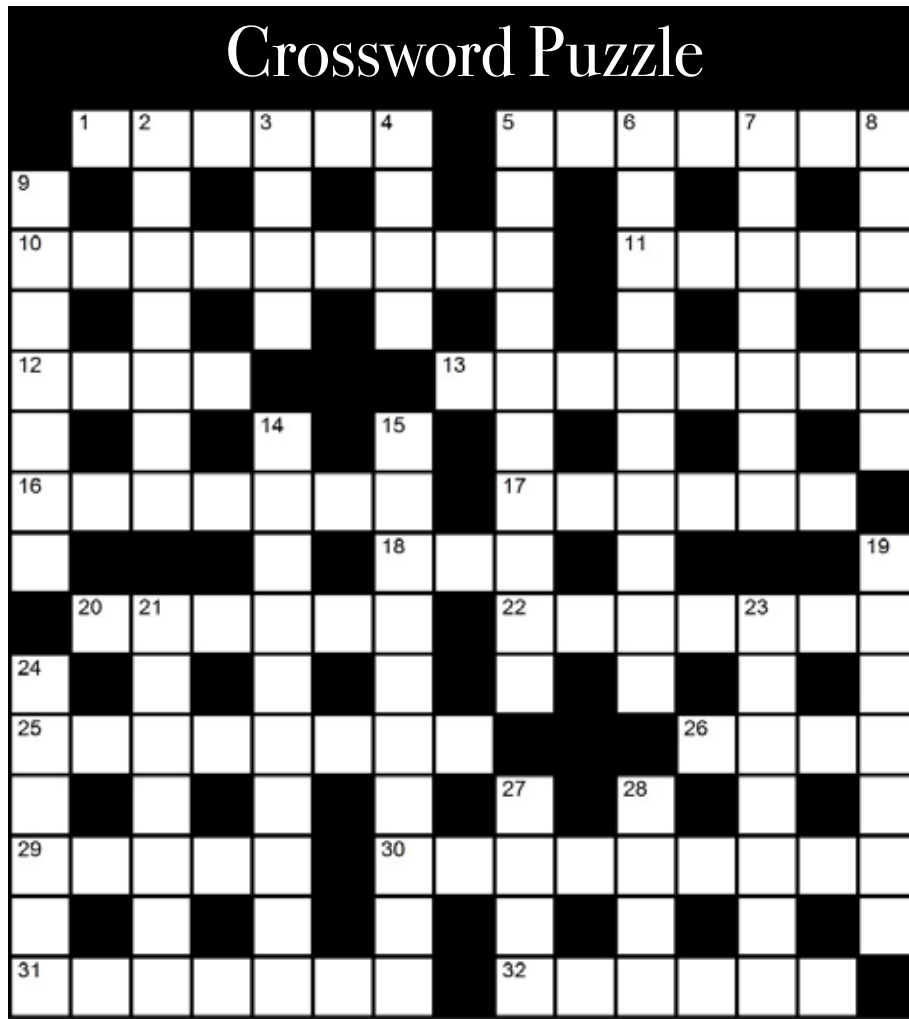
The Lake Report is looking for puzzle makers who would like to help develop this page. We are seeking both standard and cryptic crossword writers. editor@niagaranow.com

Across

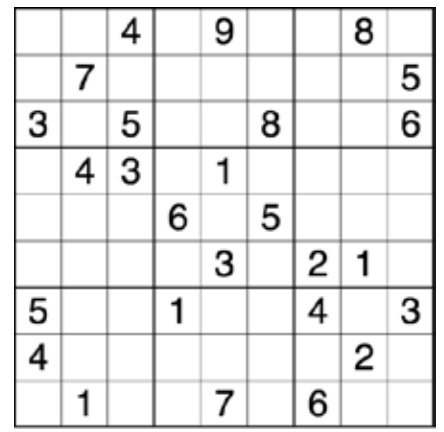
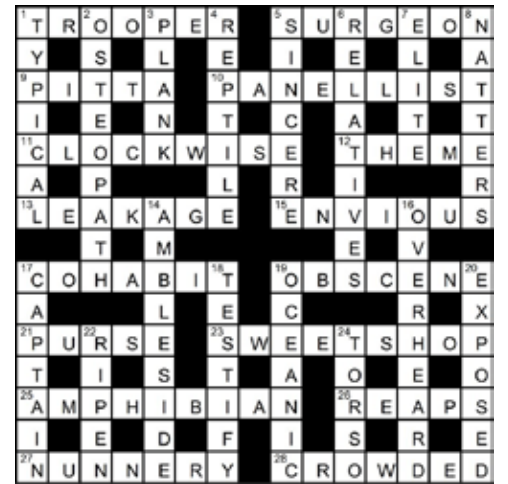
- 1. Hang loosely (6)
- 5. Church songbook (7)
- 10. Under an assumed name (9)
- 11. Strictly accurate (5)
- 12. Ogle (4)
- 13. Not merely local (8)
- 16. Efflux (7)
- 17. Stevedore (6)
- 18. Period of history (3)
- 20. Bother (6)
- 22. Not this one and not that one (7)
- 25. Supporter of a monarch (8)
- 26. Fijian capital (4)
- 29. Between (5)
- 30. Take turns (9)
- 31. Phantom (7)
- 32. Pedlar (6)

Down

- 2. Aged (7)
- 3. Jokes (4)
- 4. Send forth (4)
- 5. Fuel (10)
- 6. Constituent of vinegar (6,4)
- 7. Learner (7)
- 8. Child's toy (6)
- 9. Crest (7)
- 14. Torch (10)
- 15. Lottery (10)
- 19. Unrealistic person (7)
- 21. From now on (3,4)
- 23. Transport charge (7)
- 24. Keyboard instruments (6)
- 27. Where many land speed records have been attempted (4)
- 28. Fill out (4)



Last issue's answers



Dear Niagara,

The FEROX properties (FEROX Wines by Fabian Reis and Harvest Barn Niagara) would like to say Thank You for your continued support in these uncertain times, where supporting local has never been more important! We are humbled by the community response at all levels. Trusting that you and your family are staying safe and healthy, we are working hard to continue to provide fresh food choices to accompany our local FEROX Wines.

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Obituary

Martin Dyck



Dyck, Martin -
 Martin was born on August 15, 1958 to Henry and Elisabeth Dyck in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Hospital. He completed the family of five children. He enjoyed his youth in Virgil and, upon completing high school and college, entered the workforce at Stelco in the Quality Control Department. From there his interest in technology led him to employment at Philips. There he excelled in skills and knowledge and quickly moved into management positions. His specialty became amalgamation of offices and practices, and streamlining procedures to improve performance and profits. After several years Philips was merged with Fujitsu where Martin again assumed leadership and management positions.

Soon thereafter he followed his dreams and ventured out on his own and founded Port Whitby Marine Supplies. His love for boating and marine interests led him to start several other companies, one of which is Skippers Products. He participated at Boat Shows in Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, and Florida. He excelled in satisfying his customers. His motto was: "Exceed your customers expectations." After 30 years Martin sold Port Whitby Marine Supplies due to his failing health, but remained very active in helping the new owner. His positive attitude and hard work ethic has left a mark in Whitby. His involvement in community was apparent in that he taught a Power Squadron course at Durham College for many years, also helping at the soup kitchen, and others less fortunate.

After struggling with his health issues for several years, he received unwelcome news just before Christmas of 2019. Martin never complained but often stated: "I will do my best and God will do the rest." God saw fit to take him into his arms on April 12, 2020.

Predeceased by his parents, Henry and Elisabeth Dyck, he leaves to mourn his siblings, Elizabeth (Denis) Wiebe, Henry (Nettie) Dyck, John (Kathy) Dyck, Neta (Ron) Willms, and many nephews and nieces.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, there will be a private family interment. A Celebration of life will be held at a future date.

Donations can be made to the Canadian Cancer Society.
 Online condolences at www.tallmanfuneralhomes.ca

Soccer season delayed for first time in 42 years

Sean O'Donnell
 Special to The Lake Report

For the first time in 42 years, the over 400 youth and adults members of the NOTL Soccer Club will not kick off their season as usual this spring, yet another victim of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is uncharted territory for the Niagara-on-the-Lake club, as it faces uncertainty over when, or even if, there will be a 2020 season. It's possible soccer fields could reopen in July and allow for some games to be played, but that won't be known for a while.

Club president Ted Vanderkaay said this is a trying and sad time for soccer in Niagara.

"I've never experienced anything remotely like this," said Vanderkaay. "The worst I've experienced is delayed field openings due to the pitch being too wet. I've never experienced anything like this in all my

NOTL copes with COVID-19



Soccer is postponed. PIXABAY

years as a parent, coach or board member."

If the season is able to start July 1, there will not be enough time to play the usual number of games.

"We will not be extending our season," said Vanderkaay. "The logistics just don't work out. If we were to come back, we wouldn't go beyond August," he said.

NOTL Soccer plans to follow guidance of the Ontario Soccer Association and the local and provincial governments, hoping that

parks and pitches will be available in July.

If that happens, Vanderkaay expects to have a more informal season. "Something around the lines of pick-up games," he said. Those games would be more focused on getting soccer lovers outside and just having some fun.

He said the members of NOTL Soccer Club are going to do everything they can, along with the Town of NOTL, to get kids back on the pitch this year.

Vanderkaay, who has

been president for three years, on the board for the last seven, and coaching since 1990, said he wishes it were different and kids could be out playing on the pitch.

But looking ahead, the NOTL club is solid and will be ready whenever soccer can resume, he said.

"We are on strong financial footing, we are supported by the community and various sponsors, and we understand that some businesses that have supported us for many years are struggling and that's something we'll deal with as we get closer to normality."

At this time, there are no virtual or online initiatives planned to help kids part of clubs exercise and practice. Vanderkaay suggested just going outside and kicking the ball around.

"There are so many videos out there on the internet that can help elevate anyone's game," he said. "Just log on to YouTube."

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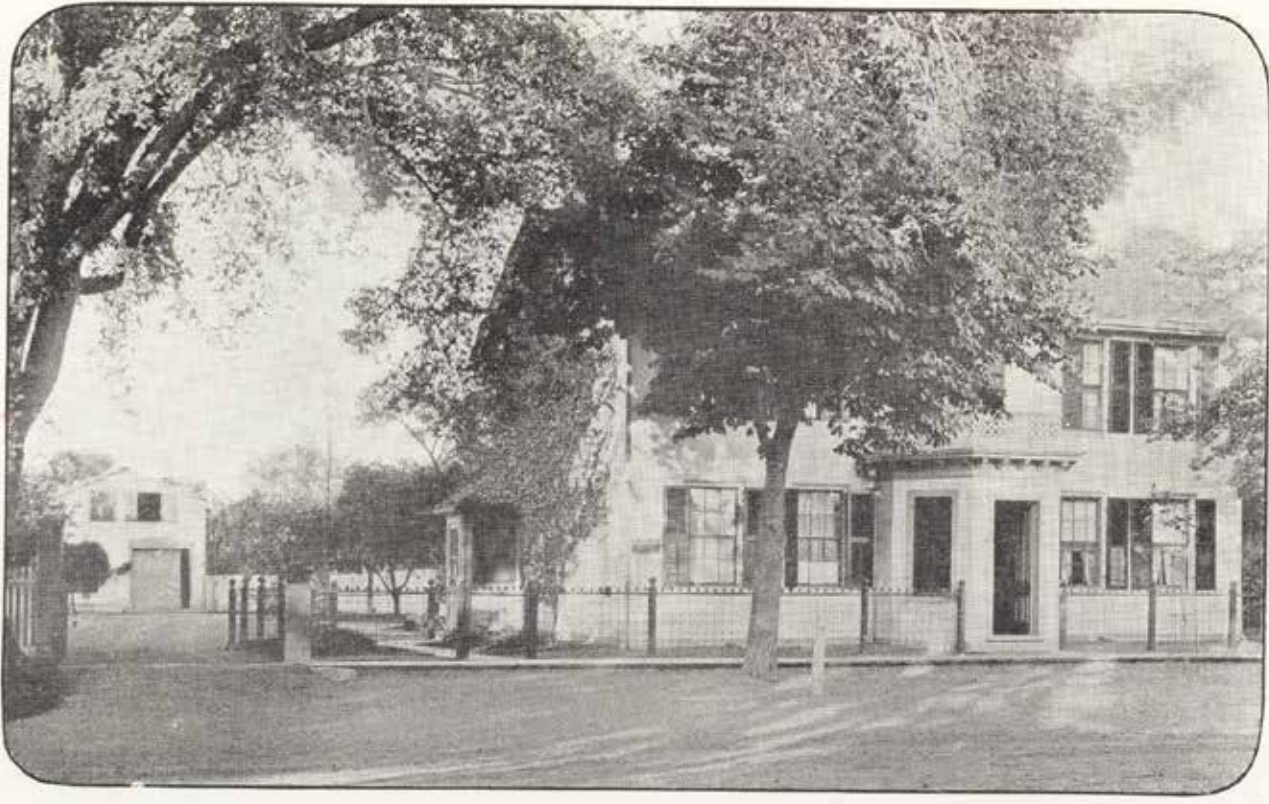
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Niagara Cottage Hospital, 175 Queen Street. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NOTL MUSEUM

What is this **Spanish Influenza** of 1918-19 and what can we learn from it today?

Sarah Kaufman
Special to The Lake Report

Among the COVID-19 global crisis discussions, there have been many comments and comparisons with the outbreak of the Spanish Flu of 1918-19. So, what is this Spanish Flu they are talking about?

Well, influenza, more commonly known as “the flu,” is not an unknown illness. Thousands are hit with a strain of it every year, though the flu vaccine can be helpful in avoiding it altogether, and sadly there are some who do die from it.

Unfortunately, the 1918 strain had a high mortality rate, with historians quoting between 20 million and 40 million of the world’s population dying from it. A unique aspect of the 1918 flu was that healthy individuals, those who would normally be untouched by the illness, were among the victims; not just the very young or the elderly.

Symptoms ranged from mild to acute. It often started suddenly, with shivering, fever, flushed face, severe headache, coughing, body pains, feelings of weakness, drowsiness and, sometimes, a sensitivity to bright light.

In serious cases, pneu-

monia, pleurisy (when the membrane around the lungs becomes inflamed, which can cause sharp chest pain) or cyanosis (a bluish discoloration of the skin due to low oxygen levels in the blood) occurred. The Spanish Flu was highly contagious, and the onset was fast.

Victims could remain in bed for a few days or up to a month. It also reduced one’s resistance to other diseases mentioned above, which often led to death. Pneumonia was the most frequent after-effect of the Spanish Flu.

There was a lot of difficulty in preventing the spread of the Spanish flu. For one, the sudden onset made it difficult to determine who was exposed and when. The incubation period was between two and seven days.

Also, the diversity of symptoms and the degree of illness, especially when mild, could be diagnosed as a common cold. The Spanish Flu could then be passed on to unsuspecting people. Doctors, in 1918, were also not required to report on the influenza cases or put people under quarantine. Several officials in the health department were hit with the Spanish Flu, which reduced the number of peo-

ple available for monitoring the doctors or the virus.

What made it worse was that there was no vaccine or drug invented at the time it was discovered, nothing to alleviate symptoms or prevent its spread. By the end of October 1918, it was reported that Niagara Camp here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, would be receiving a vaccine that could be issued to anyone who had not been hit with the illness.

Whether the vaccine actually arrived in NOTL is unknown. The main focus of the medical staff was primarily preventing its spread and caring for the sick; hoping to alleviate symptoms naturally with fresh air, nutrients and comfort.

Many researchers believed that the 1918 virus likely originated in birds. How it transferred to humans is unknown. The question I’m sure you are all curious about is why it was called the Spanish Influenza. No, it did not originate in Spain. However, historians agree that its arrival in North America certainly coincided with the return of soldiers from Europe following the First World War.

It was likely called the Spanish Flu for a few reasons. One was that Spain was neutral during the First

World War and, having no press censorship, the epidemic in the spring of 1918 was widely publicized. International press outside of Spain would then refer to the influenza as being that of the Spanish kind.

It is also possible that the name was brought about by the Allies because of Spain’s neutrality. Some saw neutral nations as being almost as bad as an enemy during the war and this stigma could be seen as some sort of punishment.

Anyone who has studied the Spanish Influenza knows there are many similarities to what the world is experiencing today with COVID-19. In fact, just the details above should demonstrate the similarities.

If there’s one thing that is important about the study of history, it is that you can learn from it, especially when you see it starting to repeat in some manner. One thing is for sure, it is time to heed the advice of medical professionals now in order to prevent what could be another catastrophic global event.

Stay home, stay safe and stay healthy.

Sarah Kaufman is managing director/curator of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum.

TD Niagara Jazz Festival **adapts** to a new world

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

In these new times, all of us have had to adapt to changing situations. The TD Niagara Jazz Festival is no exception.

Festival director Juliet Dunn has been working hard to figure out new ways to bring live music to the people of Niagara and beyond.

“We’ve had to kind of adapt, like everyone,” Dunn said in a phone interview.

Many of the popular event’s shows will be online now, including the festival’s Backyard Series, which is normally at a secret pop-up location. The concerts are being streamed on Facebook live, with artists being given access to the festival’s Facebook page for performances.

“So what we decided to do was live stream it,” Dunn said of the pop-up series. “It’s all new technology for us.”

She said with many things being postponed or cancelled, she’s also decided to offer people some extra Backyard Series shows online. Dunn and her husband Peter Shea performed with their French band on March 28.

Because they have some funding for the festival season, they have decided to use it to give the artists a “gift” since they’re sitting at home otherwise, she said.

Next week Dunn will perform for her birthday and do a fundraiser online for the festival.

She said the festival has streamed events before through Facebook live, but not as the sole option.

“So now we’re getting better at it,” she said.

Dunn has also started a streaming show called “Shaggy News Niagara” through a platform called Streamyard. She said the festival will probably start to use the platform for streaming concerts.

“Now we know how to cut to a clip and stuff like that, so it’s really fun,” Dunn said.

As for the annual jazz fes-



NOTL residents Peter Jarour and Luc Henry tune in to watch the TD Niagara Jazz Festival live stream. SUPPLIED

tival at Simcoe Park, she’s still holding out hope that life will get back to normal before July, and perhaps the show will go on.

“In terms of the upcoming events and summer festival, of course so many festivals have cancelled.

I’d rather not cancel or postpone, I’d rather do something. But it just depends what we’re allowed to do, and I’m thinking it’s going to be small concerts, which in a way for us is OK because we’re used to doing those. We have quite a following of people who are used to our small little concerts,” she said.

“I have a feeling what we will do is a combo of small concerts and live streamed at the same time. So those who are a bit wary to come out right away, they can still enjoy the concert live from their living room. That’s the idea.”

She said once she hears back on some of the grants she’s applied for, she’ll be looking to invest in some technology to improve the online concerts – like cameras.

“And get a video company to stream it so it’s just better quality.”

She said normally their money is spent on festivals for security, stages and sound. The Simcoe Park festival costs about \$50,000.

“So it would just be a transfer of costs,” she said.

To read the full story and see a list of upcoming streamed events, visit: www.niagaranow.com/news.phtml/3773

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An appreciation: The dynamic Donna Scott

The visionary trailblazer, mentor, promoter, leader, neighbour and friend, died in March

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

To better understand the unique personality of Donna Scott and to bring her contribution to Canada and Niagara-on-the-Lake into better perspective, The Lake Report asked a few of her closest friends and colleagues to share some memories.

Together these thoughts paint a vibrant, colourful picture and help us understand who she was and why she is so revered by so many Canadians, in so many different walks of life.

Debi Pratt, this year's Spirit of Niagara's Citizen of the Year, knew Donna for over 30 years. She met Donna shortly after she moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"I met Donna when I worked at Inniskillin Winery," Pratt remembers. "Donna was proud of Niagara-on-the-Lake. When ever she and Hugh (Farrell) had a party or were hosting people from out of town, she would include Inniskillin wines in the gathering.

"Donna would always say how proud she was of Niagara-on-the-Lake. She wanted to show off her new community.

"Donna was a ground breaker for women in Canadian business. That kind of coincided with my own career. When I got into the wine business it was male-dominated. You had to be credible in what you did.

"She never started a war chant about women having to do this or that. She was simply a role model.

"And I remember her tremendous sense of humour. Delightful conversation. She was very caring about her friends and the people that were in her life."

Donna's great friend of almost 50 years, **Florence Campbell**, a former vice-president of both Queen's University and the Conference Board of Canada, met Donna when they were



Donna Scott with her husband Hugh Farrell. SUPPLIED

both on the board of the Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs in 1974. They were best friends ever since and have shared Christmas together for over 25 years.

"Donna was a leader. She saw opportunities and pounced on them. Flare (magazine) was her brainchild. When she came to NOTL she saw the need for the St. Mark's church bells to be refurbished and took leadership of that project. She thought the various historical groups in the area could have a far bigger impact if they collaborated, so she became a leader in the Historical Alliance.

"Donna was a networker. She had access to senior business leaders in Toronto, first in the fashion and beauty world, and then

more broadly because of the Financial Post Conferences. Then across Canada in the arts.

"Donna was a connector. Given her impressive network, she didn't hesitate to introduce people to each other, and she championed her friends' talents and expertise."

Terry and Terry MacTaggart were nearby neighbours of Donna's for all of her almost 30-plus years in Old Town.

"We got to know each other during daily walks in the neighbourhood, over the fence," recalls Terry-She.

"Donna was a mentor. Our daughter was considering a career in magazine publishing. I called Donna and asked if she could give Jennifer her thoughts about

the industry. She jumped at the chance.

Terry-He remembers how much fun Donna and her husband, Hugh Farrell, had together. "She was a great friend. And fun to be with. Hugh was a bit of an imp. A great partner. They were fun together.

"But she was also known as a person who rolled up her sleeves and got at things."

Nadja Lepere, owner of Upper Canada Travel, came to know Hugh and Donna first professionally, helping to satisfy their wanderlust cruising around the world, and later as a great friend.

"She and Hugh loved to cruise and over time they saw most of the world that way. They had pure enjoy-

ment of sailing, but it also broadened their perspective and provided intellectual stimulation.

"We started off in a professional relationship and then we formed a special bond. We became special friends. We had a lot of laughs over a glass of wine.

"She championed everything local that she felt was worth it. She encouraged you. Built you up. She had a real knack of making you feel important."

In 2013, Donna attended a special event to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Laura Secord's famous walk. At the celebration, Donna met **Caroline McCormick**, the driving force behind the Friends of Laura Secord and the effort to give Laura Secord the recogni-

tion she deserved.

That chance meeting was a spark that formed a deep and abiding respect and friendship between the two women.

Over the intervening years, they met regularly, with Donna acting as a mentor for many of the activities of the organization. Donna became the unofficial chair of the National Advisory Committee.

"I Googled her and said: 'Wow'. I was really impressed with her accomplishments as a businesswoman.

"She reminded me of Laura Secord. They were both trailblazers.

"Donna loved and admired Laura Secord and what she represented. She always said Canada needs a hero. And it should be Laura Secord.

"I'm only sorry we didn't get a chance to have Donna lead the effort to bring the story of Laura Secord to schoolchildren across Canada. It was her idea. We just ran out of time."

For more than seven years, Donna and **Jim Garrett**, a principal of Garrett Insurance, worked together, tirelessly spearheading the drive to raise funds from Niagara-on-the-Lake in support of the new Niagara Health System hospital in St. Catharines.

At weekly meetings, the co-chairs built the campaign from the ground up, finally surpassing the initial goal, raising \$2.8 million for the new facility.

"What a blessing Donna was," says Garrett. "She was powerful and connected. I knew the local scene and Donna literally knew everyone else. She was a spitfire in everything she did.

"She is irreplaceable. What she did for Canadian women, was such an inspiration. What she pioneered has improved society.

"I will miss her. That's what I would like to say to her."

Along with so many others, both near and far.




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