



Just peachy | Pages 12-13

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Serving all five communities of Niagara-on-the-Lake

August 18, 2022



Integrity report vindicates mayor of allegations over husband's bylaw complaint

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's integrity commissioner has found no evidence Lord Mayor Betty Di-sero behaved unethically in the handling of a bylaw complaint launched by her husband.

The complaint regarding the property of Colin Telfer and Jennifer Elliott was filed by Dan Williams in

Continued on Page 5



Retired businessman Vaughn Goettler jumps into mayoral race

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

A third candidate has joined the race for lord mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Retired businessman Vaughn Goettler signed his nomination papers Wednesday afternoon at town hall, accompanied by his wife Lauren.

Goettler said it was a last-minute decision to run, but in 24 hours garnered more than 60 signatures support-

Continued on Page 4

No wind in their sails

Most sailing races postponed on first day of Summer Games competition



Evan Owen of Team Manitoba tries to catch the wind during the first day of Canada Games sailing. MOLLY BOWRON

Richard Harley
Molly Bowron
The Lake Report

It was mostly dead wind on Lake Ontario Wednesday, as sailors from across Canada waited for the right conditions for the first sailing races of the Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games.

The racing events were postponed on shore until about noon and even then, when the first Laser boats hit the water, they couldn't begin racing until around 1:30 p.m.

Out on the water, volunteer Jim Collard idled the media boat as athletes did practise runs whenever a gust rolled through.

When the wind finally blew in, it only held out for a short while. Only one official race was completed and a second race was abandoned partway through.

Hunter Kristjansson, coach for the Manitoba sailing team, said it was the right decision to postpone the races, adding they could have just kept everyone

on shore, "because we were out there for about an hour before we got a race off."

"That was a little bit of a long time, but it also gave us a chance to sort of read the clouds and pay attention to what was happening, which helps us for coaching and for

Continued on Page 9

16-year-old Gatta wins gold with Team Ontario

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Zubin Gatta went into the Canada Summer Games on a mission – with a gold medal as his goal.

Mission accomplished: He took gold with Team Ontario and won an individual bronze in the 52-kg. weight class.

"It was hard work, but it all paid off,"

said Gatta in an interview after the medals were awarded.

He credited his father Kekoo's lessons and fighting spirit for helping him reach his goal.

Team Ontario faced British Columbia in the gold medal match on Aug. 10 where they put up 32 points to British Columbia's 16.

Gatta scored five points against his

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Zubin Gatta receives a hug after winning a bronze medal in individual wrestling. LEAH PARKER



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Left: A temporary burial in Fleruy-sur-Orne. ARGYLL AND SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS Right: Pte. Percy Hindle's name is included on a page from the Book of Remembrance at the Peace Tower in Ottawa. VETERANS AFFAIRS

From left, Al Howse, Legion president, Irene Newton, president of Canadian Ukrainian Congress, and Legion member Alex Luhowy. EVAN LOREE

Legion raises \$1,190 to support Ukrainians resettling in Niagara

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

to helping immigrating Ukrainians settle in Canada after being displaced by the war.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion has raised \$1,190 at its weekly fish fry and donated it to the Niagara Region Canadian Ukrainian Congress to support victims of the war in Ukraine.

"Homelessness is a big issue in the Niagara Region, and finding accommodations for people is a big issue," Newton said.

Royal Canadian Legion branch president Al Howse and Legion member Alex Luhowy presented a cheque Friday to Irene Newton, president of the Niagara branch of the Ukrainian congress.

One of the ways her organization is supporting Ukrainian refugees is by supplying essential needs, including food, furniture and clothing.

The Legion of Niagara-on-the-Lake holds a fish fry every Thursday to raise money for charity.

All of this is available at the group's new boutique at 1 Currie St. in St. Catharines. It is open Thursday 3 to 7 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Howse, a Legion member for 49 years, gets his passion for veteran affairs from a deep-seated military lineage.

"My parents were in the wave of Ukrainians that came during the Second World War, that escaped the Iron Curtain and escaped the Russian Siberian prisons," said Newton.

"My father was a World War Two veteran. He's gone now. My mother supported things on the home front," Howse said in an interview after presenting the cheque to Newton.

Like Newton, Luhowy has a personal connection to the war in Ukraine.

Howse got his start in the military in 1974, serving both full-time and part-time while his parents were active with the Legion.

"I've always maintained a strong connection to Ukraine. I have relatives there. I worked in Ukraine several times," he said.

Today, Howse is passionate about homelessness in the veteran community and providing aid to victims of war.

Family members have come to Niagara after being displaced by the war, he said.

"At first, all of our fundraising was to send money to organizations like the Canada Ukraine Foundation, Help Us Help the Children, the Red Cross for aid over there," Newton said.

Luhowy worked for the federal Immigration Department before retiring, but came out of retirement in April to help process Ukrainian visa applications.

The Ukrainian congress has changed its focus

The experience exposed him directly to the people being displaced by the war.

The NOTL Legion's weekly fish fry takes place every Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. and all proceeds go to worthy causes.

THE MONUMENTS MEN

Percy Hindle was victim of fortunes of war

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Niagara-on-the-Lake's iconic clock tower cenotaph. In recognition of the cenotaph's century of service through two world wars and beyond, NOTL historian Ron Dale has been researching the stories of the people – all men – whose names are engraved on it. This is one in a series of stories to document and remember the sacrifices these combatants made.

Ron Dale
Special to The Lake Report

Men and women from the town and township of Niagara, now Niagara-on-the-Lake, had served in the army, navy and air force since the beginning of the Second World War in September 1939.

Casualties had not been overwhelming during the first five years of the conflict. Seven men had been killed in combat, mostly bomber crew and there were three accidental deaths.

The year 1944 was much worse. Between June and December 1944, 18 men were killed in action and another three suffered accidental deaths.

Thirteen of these men were soldiers killed following D-Day in the Canadian advance into France, Belgium and Holland. Five were members

of RCAF bomber crews shot down over western Europe.

Percy Samuel Hindle was the first of the local soldiers killed in France after the June 6, 1944, invasion of Europe.

Hindle was born in Niagara-on-the-Lake on March 16, 1923, and grew up on Gate Street.

He left school early, attending only one year of high school before working at various odd jobs before finding employment as a truck driver.

In 1940, his older brother Frank enlisted in the Canadian army, joining the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at Camp Niagara in 1940.

The regiment provided guards for the Welland Canal before being shipped to Jamaica for garrison duty in September 1941. The Argylls returned to Canada and Camp Niagara in May 1943.

It was just prior to this that Percy decided to enlist, joining the army on April 2, 1943. After basic training in Toronto and Brantford, Pte. Percy Hindle joined his brother as a member of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders on June 15, 1943.

In a little over a month, he was with his regiment in Great Britain.

The Argylls trained in

England for the next 11 months in every aspect of infantry drill and tactics, in anticipation of the eventual invasion of Europe.

The soldiers were disappointed that they did not land in France on D-Day on June 6, 1944. When the regiment was finally moved to the Tilbury dock for embarkation, the men were "excited," according to the diary of company Sgt.-Maj. George Mitchell. Percy Hindle stepped ashore in France on July 26, 1944.

On July 28, the Argylls travelled through the suburbs of Caen, south of the Orne River, which had been captured in Operation Atlantic on July 20. Sgt.-Maj. Mitchell recorded in his diary: "Caen smashed – leaves one with hopeless feeling."

The following day, the regiment was posted away from the active combat zone, relieving a British regiment at Fleury-sur-Orne, south of Caen. The dust that rose when the Argylls arrived in this situation attracted German artillery fire.

Sgt. Ed Dickinson recalled: "This side of Caen we were bombed, and the Germans were lobbing over 88s (artillery shells), and they got some of our guys ... we'd just gotten there and dug in. The fortunes of war, somebody got it."

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Jamaican minister of labour visits NOTL farms to learn about industry and working conditions

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

A few Niagara-on-the-Lake farmers had a special guest on Monday, as Jamaica's labour minister toured some of the businesses that are part of Canada's Temporary Foreign Workers program that brings in seasonal farmworkers.

Karl Samuda was at Kai Wiens' family farm in the afternoon, checking out the peach growing and packing operation, which is run mostly by Jamaican workers.

He paid close attention as Wiens explained the farm's procedures and took Samuda and a group visitors through the operation.

After the walkthrough, Samuda gave the workers a brief speech.

"I want everyone here to realize, you are an integral part of this (business). He owns it, but he can't run it. He manages it, he lays down the laws of how it should be done, but you do what is necessary to make him succeed," he said.

"I want to see you do as well as you can, so that you can take your rightful place in Jamaica as someone who has succeeded to carve out a quality of life for yourself that can give you pride."

Before Samuda arrived, Wiens told The Lake Report he sees the occasion as a good chance for the labour minister to meet farmers and see what Jamaican workers are doing in Canada.

Wiens, who has operated his farm since 1987, has had several workers with him for more than a decade, including many who have "pensioned out" and now enjoy a Canadian pension.

In his speech, Samuda pointed out that one of the female workers had been there for more than 20 years.

"What is encouraging, and should be encouraging, is after 20-odd years, she still has a smile on her face. She still looks at her boss in an admiring way, and he at her in the same way. That's wonderful. That's a nice relationship to have at the work," he said.



Jamaican minister of labour Karl Samuda chats with Kai Wiens during a visit to his family farm on Monday. He was there to learn about working conditions for Jamaican seasonal workers in the Temporary Foreign Workers program. RICHARD HARLEY

Wiens said he knows farm life isn't perfect, but as an employer, it's in his interest to keep his workers happy.

He can't recall any major conflicts in his time running the farm.

"Will there be conflicts? In a house with 10 people? Yes," he said.

He notes labour laws for farm workers are "hugely strong."

"If I have a dispute, it is my responsibility as the employer to resolve the situation in a timely manner," he said.

"I think it's obvious that it's best to do it that way. But it's a much stronger legislation than the Employment Standards Act."

Wiens is well aware of farm worker advocacy groups, who are fighting for the rights of farm workers. He said many of the issues facing farm workers in Canada aren't actually in the hands of farmers themselves.

For example, a common plight of farm workers is that they want an easier path to permanent residency in Canada after working here for several years.

"That's an immigration issue," Wiens said.

He also said in terms of housing for workers, he does the best he can — his homes appear to be in good condition.

But he said there are plenty of hurdles to overcome when building a dwelling unit on a commercial farm — processes that don't necessarily make sense for farms and that end up affecting the workers if farmers can't build, or can't afford to do so at a reasonable cost because of development fees, etc.

But again, that's not a farming issue, he said.

Allison Levy, a first-year farm worker at Wiens' farm, said so far the job is going well.

"Ups and downs, but it's OK," she said.

Like many of the workers, she said the only things she wants is more hours. She's here to work, so the more money she can earn, the better.

She'd also like it the government to make it easier to become a permanent resident.

"We've gone through all the process that we are good citizens. I don't think it's a hard process to do," she said.

David Reid, a 13-year employee of Wiens', said he's never felt that he couldn't come forward if there was a problem he wanted to address. But, he said so far, there hasn't been any.

"I haven't had that issue with my boss," he said.

Granville Valentine, general secretary of Jamaica's

National Workers Union, said he had heard some concerns from workers.

"Some of the workers would speak about the level of respect, how they are spoken to, and that is of concern, but we understand that you hear one side," he said.

On the other hand, "some of the employers will talk about a few new workers and a reluctance of co-operating, especially with the older workers or the more experienced workers," he said.

"And we are going to look to see how we can help back to in terms of our mentorship and our pep talks, motivation speeches, etc., as we think that can help those and prepare them for the program."

He said some workers expressed concerns about housing and accommodation.

"We would want to ensure that it is one that is up to par in terms of persons should feel comfortable enough. We're not looking for a palace, but we are looking for something decent that will not threaten the health of anyone."

It's important to keep these farm worker programs going, and "continue to work as a team with farmers, owners, the management team, the liaison services and the workers," he said.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Niagara Region Proposed Development Charges By-law and Underlying Background Study

Niagara Region will hold a statutory public meeting pursuant to Section 12 of the Development Charges Act, 1997, as amended, to present and obtain public input on Niagara Region's proposed Transit Development Charges By-law and underlying background study.

A statutory public meeting is being held under the provisions of Section 12 of the Development Charges Act, as follows:

Date: Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: This meeting will be held both electronically and in person in Council Chamber, Niagara Regional Headquarters, 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold

A copy of the background study and proposed by-law is available at niagararegion.ca/business/property/background-study.aspx

The background study and proposed By-law is for Transit Development Charges.

To view live-stream meeting proceedings, without the ability to provide oral submissions, please visit niagararegion.ca/government/council

Public input on the proposed development charges by-law is welcomed and encouraged. Members of the public are able to attend in person or virtually.

To provide written input, please either mail your comments to the Office of the Regional Clerk, Niagara Region, 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042, Thorold, ON, L2V 4T7 or send to clerk@niagararegion.ca by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022.

To provide input orally at the public meeting either in person or virtually, please submit your delegation request to the Regional Clerk by completing the online form at niagararegion.ca/government/council/speak-at-committee.aspx or by sending an email to clerk@niagararegion.ca before 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2022. For more information, visit niagararegion.ca/government/council/speakingatcouncil.aspx

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to participate in meetings or events, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Special accessibility accommodations and materials in alternate formats can be arranged by contacting Niagara Region's **Accessibility Advisor** at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.

Personal information collected or submitted in writing at public meeting will be collected, used and disclosed by member of Regional Council and Regional staff in accordance with the **Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)**. The written submissions including names, contact information and reports of the public meeting will be made available. Questions about this collection and disclosure should be directed to the Access & Privacy Office at 905-980-6000 ext. 3779 or FOI@niagararegion.ca.

Date issued: Aug. 18, 2022

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ELECTION 2022

The race is on for NOTL municipal vote

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

With the deadline fast approaching for municipal election nominees to declare their candidacy, the Niagara-on-the-Lake race is heating up.

A week ago, it looked like there might not be enough candidates to fill the eight councillor positions.

Now, there's a race, though still a far cry from the 25 people who ran for council four years ago.

Candidates have until tomorrow, Friday, Aug. 19, at 2 p.m., to file their nominations with the clerk's office at the town hall.

Any registered candidate who now wants to withdraw from the Oct. 24 race must do so by the same deadline.

Niagara-on-the-Lake voters will cast ballots for lord mayor, town councillor, regional councillor and school trustee.

Candidates are not permitted to file nomination papers electronically and must schedule an appointment with the clerk's department.

Incumbent Lord Mayor Betty Disero is facing a challenge from regional Coun. Gary Zalepa and retired

businessman Vaughn Goettler, who filed his nomination papers Wednesday.

Couns. Allan Bisback, Gary Burroughs, Wendy Cheropita, Sandra O'Connor and Erwin Wiens are all seeking re-election.

They are joined in the race by Tim Balasiuk, Adriana Cater, Alistair Harlond, Maria Mavridis, John McCallum, Richard Mell and Nick Ruller.

Couns. Norm Arsenault, Clare Cameron and John Wiens are not running again.

With Zalepa running for mayor, former councillor Paolo Miele and former mayor Pat Darté have registered for the regional council race.

As of Wednesday, seven candidates were running for four NOTL-St. Catharines trustee seats on the District School Board of Niagara.

These include incumbents Kate Baggott, Alex Bradnam, Lora Campbell and Jonathan Fast.

Challengers so far are: Christine Lewis, Donald MacDougall and Kris Vreck.

Two trustee seats for NOTL-St. Catharines are available on the Niagara Catholic District School Board but no candidate infor-

mation has been released yet.

Melinda Chartrand is the only candidate running for the region's French Catholic board, the Conseil Scolaire Catholique MonAvenir.

Potential candidates who have yet to declare their intent to run must submit at least 25 endorsements from potential electors as part of their application when they visit town hall to register.

They must also provide valid identification, a declaration of qualification, a nomination filing fee and a completed copy of the nomination paper.

The filing fee is \$100, except for the mayoral candidates, who must pay \$200.

Third-party advertisers interested in supporting one candidate over another are expected to register with the town clerk by Oct. 21.

As part of their application, they must fill out a declaration of qualifications in addition to their notice of registration.

Advanced polling will take place Oct. 8 at St. Davids Public School, Oct. 12 and 19 at the town offices on Four Mile Creek Road and Oct. 15 at the NOTL Community Centre.

The new town council will begin its term Nov. 15.

Goettler joins race for mayor

Continued from Front Page

ing his cause. Candidates need 25 signatures to qualify for the nomination.

Incumbent Lord Mayor Betty Disero is also facing a challenge from regional Coun. Gary Zalepa.

Goettler was all smiles as he signed his forms — it was also the couple's anniversary.

An entrepreneur, he has decades of business experience and from 1997 to 2003 was president and CEO of Union Energy (today called Reliance Home Comfort).

In 2003, he acquired four of Union Energy's HVAC

residential contractors in a buyout and sold them in 2007.

He reacquired those same businesses in 2014 and grew the company into the largest privately held HVAC residential contractor in Canada, with over 1,000 employees in five provinces.

Goettler said one issue close to him is how much NOTL contributes to the region's budget, particularly for policing.

He said he's happy with police enforcement in NOTL and feels it's a safe town, but isn't happy with how much the municipal-ity pays in comparison to

others.

Goettler now lives in a home on the Niagara River and together with his wife started the Goettler Family Foundation a year ago.

The foundation has made donations to several NOTL organizations including the NOTL Museum, Music Niagara, Niagara College, Niagara Symphony Orchestra, Shaw Festival and Yellow Door Theatre Project.

Their philanthropy also includes several donations to global organizations to support conservation of the planet and Ukraine relief efforts.



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Silhouettes on the water



Paddleboarders enjoy the sunset during a full moon last Friday. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Commissioner: No evidence of political interference

Continued from Front Page

June 2020 over the neighbours' suspected use of their garage as a living space.

The integrity report was completed this past March but was only made public this week, at the mayor's request.

Dated March 15, 2022, it was never previously released because that wasn't a requirement under NOTL's investigative protocol.

The report is now public, included on the agenda for a special council meeting on Aug. 18.

Telfer formally complained to integrity commissioner Edward McDermott on Oct. 7, 2021, accusing the mayor of using her power to influence the handling of her husband's complaint.

Disero said she didn't know her husband had filed the complaint until June 2021.

Telfer is not happy with the integrity commissioner's report.

"We were flabbergasted. It was such a misleading report," he said in an interview.

"There was no investigation done. They just solicited self-serving statements from folks," he said.

In an earlier written statement, Elliott claimed she and Telfer are "the victims of harassment lies and the blatant abuse of our rights as citizens and property owners, by a person in authority."

As previously reported by The Lake Report, Williams submitted his complaint af-



Lord Mayor Betty Disero. FILE/RICHARD HARLEY

ter Jennifer Elliott posted to Facebook that much of the space in their garage would be converted into "living space."

The garage is about five feet from their shared property line and consists of three large bays.

Williams said the garage obstructs the view from his and Disero's home.

According to the report, Disero was asked on June 23, 2021, by town chief administrator Marnie Cluckie and town solicitor Terry Hill whether she had submitted a bylaw complaint about her neighbours' property.

She said she had not.

According to the commissioner's report, bylaw officer Henry Boese attempted to investigate the complaint against Telfer and Elliott but they did not allow him to search their garage.

No warrant for the search was ever filed, but the bylaw investigation remained open.

The town withheld the renewal of Telfer and El-

liot's B&B licence on the grounds that they had an open bylaw investigation on their property.

Telfer said he believes this was the intended result from the start, but the integrity report found no evidence to support his speculation.

"I didn't find out about it until Terry Hill and Marnie Cluckie told me about it," Disero said in an interview when asked about her husband's complaint.

According to the report, it is common practice for the town to withhold licences when bylaw compliance is in question, regardless of who filed the bylaw complaint.

The integrity commissioner's investigator, Michael Maynard, interviewed several members of the town staff, including Cluckie, Hill and Boese.

None of them could corroborate Telfer's suspicion that the mayor had attempted to use her position to influence the bylaw complaint against Telfer and Elliott's property at 468

Dorchester St.

It has been two years since Telfer was able to operate his B&B business.

"If you shut a business down for two years, you're starting over from scratch again," Telfer said.

"We had a nice little business going there. \$10 to \$20 grand a year, had great folks there, met a lot of nice people," he added.

The commissioner's report says Telfer and Elliott never appealed the decision to withhold their B&B licence.

Telfer said there was nothing to appeal as the town had not declined their licence but had instead withheld it pending the results of an investigation into the open bylaw complaint originally filed by Williams.

According to the report, that investigation was initiated by Boese, who asked permission to inspect the property for bylaw compliance.

"It was such a ludicrous complaint," said Telfer, who refused to consent to the property search.

The use of the garage did not violate any bylaws.

"As a Canadian citizen, I've got that right," he added.

Elliott had plans to use the additional garage space as a "she-shed," but her Facebook post on the topic alarmed the town because of its ambiguous use of the term "living space."

To date, the property has not been inspected to determine whether it complies with the town's bylaws.



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

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 74
Region active cases: 929
Region deaths: 593
Region total cases: 44,212

**Aug. 17 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
 "Each day comes bearing its own gifts.
 Untie the ribbons."
 - Ruth Ann Schabacker

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Batter in the cage



Ryan up to bat at the Niagara Golf and Batting Cages on Tuesday. STEVE HARDAKER

Editorial

A new NOTL, wards and all

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

It's time for some big changes on Niagara-on-the-Lake town council.

We're not talking about "throw the bums out" sort of change because that is neither necessary nor desirable.

Some continuity and institutional knowledge is useful and desirable. After all, council is losing some dedicated, experienced people this election, with Norm Arseneault, Clare Cameron and John Wiens not running.

A number of capable people – 11 as of Wednesday evening – have stepped up to contest council's eight seats, but we hope even more opt to throw their hat in the ring (but not 25 as happened in 2018; that's just too much of a good thing).

And the mayor's race just got more interesting, with the addition of Vaughn Goettler as a candidate.

Looking ahead, it's time for council to continue its slow shift toward a more modern, professional approach to matters. This is not the small town it was 10, 25 or 40 years ago. We need not only vision but action, and need to get over the

rear-view mirror laments about "how great things used to be."

One way to inject fresh ideas and energy is for younger, newer residents to step up. With time and population growth, it is inevitable that the younger generation will eventually test the electoral waters.

But it would add much-needed alternative viewpoints to the debate if more younger residents were to add their voices to the debate for this campaign.

COVID aside, it's been a tough four years for council. Occasional in-fighting, some poor preparation and a reluctance to make some tough decisions that would benefit the majority bogged down the outgoing council too often.

Decisions and near-immediate reversals (think the eventually approved accommodation tax) were embarrassing. NOTL's marathon council meetings, among the longest of any Niagara municipality, where it seems everyone feels they have to speak to the "folks at home," are a real turn-off.

We want to see council decisively deal with pressing issues (tourism, short-term rentals, contex-

tual neighbourhood zoning, heritage preservation, design guidelines, for starters) and taking some innovative steps to spark renewal, interest and trust.

And, above all, let this be the final election in NOTL in which councillors are elected "at large" across the municipality.

It is past time for our town to have a ward system in place. Staff experts can figure out the details and exact boundary lines, but wards with two councillors each are essential for Old Town, Virgil, Queenston-St. Davids-Glendale, and perhaps the rural zone.

People with greater expertise than us can figure out the best way to divvy up the NOTL pie.

Virgil, St. Davids and, especially, Glendale are growing. They all will have growing pains and face different issues than Old Town or rural NOTL. So in order to fairly and equitably ensure all areas of town are represented, we must move to wards.

Let's be practical, productive and positive in how we approach our politics.

We recognize it is really easy to pontificate from this perch – or from the lofty

heights of social media where people whine and complain about the incumbents doing this or that wrong and slugging people's reputations over often petty grievances.

And, please, enough with all the "Toronto people" complaints. It's really tiresome and uncalled for.

We'll have more to say about NOTL politics as the fall campaign unfolds, but there is one more area we'd like to see dealt with: the salaries councillors are paid.

For the hours of work, daily demands and the high expectations of residents, the \$15,520 annual salary for councillors is an embarrassing pittance.

We can crow about "serving" the community and doing the job as a public service. But the reality is we need good, dedicated people who are fairly compensated for the job we ask of them.

The first step toward ensuring NOTL's future is to attract a wide range of competent council candidates. The filing deadline is 2 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, Aug. 19. Here's hoping we'll see some new names with fresh ideas.

editor@niagaranow.com

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Impressed by Lake Report saga of NOTL's **Capt. Dinwiddie**

Dear editor:

I read with great interest the July 28 instalment of The Monuments Men series in The Lake Report, "Separated by war, Phyllis Dinwiddie followed husband overseas."

My wife Anne and I had visited the grave of Capt. George Dinwiddie at the Moro River Cemetery in Ortona, Italy, in October of 2021.

We both have a keen interest in the Canadian Armed Forces' history as each of us had grandfathers who fought in the First World War and both of our fathers served in the RCAF in the Second World War.

Thankfully, all of our family members returned home safely.

Capt. Dinwiddie's grave is

located in one of the many impressively designed, maintained, dignified and inspiring cemeteries under the aegis of the Commonwealth Graves Commission.

The commission honours and cares for the men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the first and second world wars, ensuring that they will never be forgotten.

Each site throughout Great Britain and Europe is cared for in perpetuity and many are under consideration for World Heritage Site status.

While at first glance the white headstones appear the same, each one is engraved with the soldier's name, rank, regiment and date of death.

In some cases, there is,

added at the bottom, an inscription chosen by the family.

At the entrance to each cemetery is a permanent small kiosk/building with plaques on the outside explaining the nearby battles as well as a book in a small unlocked strong box containing the details of each of those buried in that location – including their hometown.

It was in this book at the Moro River Cemetery that we were delighted to find a person from Niagara-on-the-Lake – Capt. Dinwiddie.

When we returned home, I did find out some information about him but nothing compared to that in the article by Ron Dale.

Of note: we also found a headstone for D. H. Black-

man of Niagara Falls, Ont., and have discovered a few facts about him.

We had returned to Ortona last year to make a second attempt at visiting the acclaimed museum of the Battle of Ortona – sadly it appears to be permanently closed due to lack of funding.

Catania on the east coast of Sicily has an excellent museum, which we had visited a few years previously.

Our interest in both wars has led us to grave sites in France, Italy and Sicily. We also visited Juno Beach at the site of the D-day invasion and the Canadian War Museum there.

In 2017, we attended the Vimy Memorial Celebration in France.

Auschwitz/Birkenau were on our itinerary in Poland: it was an impressive and memorable experience and it left us knowing that such atrocities should never again be allowed to occur.

This coming October we plan to visit Monte Casino, although I must say that we not only visit military sites but go to Europe for the history, the archeology, the churches and the food and wine.

We never fail to be humbled by and thankful for all the lives that were sacrificed for our freedom and are so thankful that they are so superbly remembered in the Commonwealth Grave Cemeteries.

John Hopkins
NOTL



Capt. Dinwiddie's grave in Ortona. SUPPLIED

Critique was **cheap** shot at mayor

Dear editor:

I was a bit surprised when I read Reid Maltby's letter apparently criticizing, without actually saying so, Lord Mayor Betty Disero's behaviour some 20 years ago, ("Consider mayor's actions and her Toronto legacy").

He refers to undefined articles by Toronto newspapers, describing them as the "three dailies," which I understand are the Toronto Star, the Toronto Sun, and the Globe and Mail.

He goes on to make reference to a 2003 article in Now Magazine that no one would call a daily let alone a newspaper.

It was a left-wing entertainment and scandal tabloid.



Even then, the article cited does little more than generally critique Toronto city council and several of its members, using questions, innuendo and allegations rather than facts.

It is unfortunate that your editor published what can best be described as a cheap shot at Ms. Disero.

Bert Dandy
Niagara Falls

Too many cars visit town. **We need a shuttle**

Dear editor:

I have not read every word of the 168-page detailed and well thought-out proposed transportation master plan prepared by Stantec Inc.

However, unlike some residents in town, I don't recall any mention of widening the already exceptionally wide Charlotte Street, which was paved and a sidewalk placed along its entire length from Niagara Street to John Street in the 1990s.

I very much hope that Charlotte Street will be signposted as the way from East and West Line to the heritage district.

I certainly always drive that route rather than the convoluted routing taking one down Niagara Street, then a sharp right onto Rye Street, then a left onto Cottage which takes one to the stop sign at King where one turns right.

However, on a recent weekend, I was going to see someone on Rye so I took that route and witnessed a distressing situation involving a family.

As I approached Rye Street, there were cars parked on either side of Niagara Street, forcing me and a family on bicycles into the opposite lane.

The father was on a tandem bicycle with a young daughter while the mother



Lines of cars are a common sight in Old Town in the spring and summer, especially during special events, when cars take up most side streets. FILE PHOTO

and a son followed on their own bikes.

As we approached the turn onto Rye, the father was looking nervously ahead and behind at the traffic.

I so wished there had been a sign at Charlotte indicating that it led to the historic district so the family could have zipped down to the paved path on the Commons on either Charlotte Street itself or the adjacent sidewalk without even one stop sign to hold them up.

I also wish that Zoom Bike Rentals had more children's bikes so families

wouldn't be forced to rent extremely difficult-to-control tandem bikes.

I also failed to see any reference in the transportation plan to making the former hospital a parking garage

It would be a shame to tear down the brick building built in 1951 instead of using it as much-needed accessible housing.

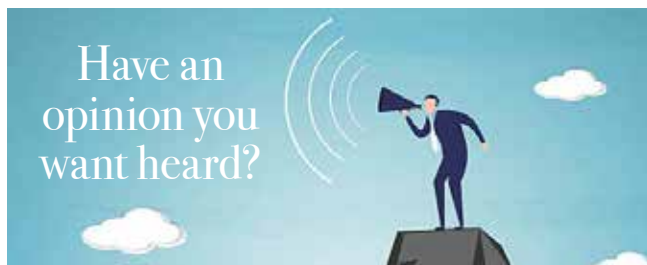
I entirely agree that there are too many cars downtown and that is why in a long long letter to the town concerning the plan, I advocated for the town to provide free parking on the five acres of land it owns by

the former high school and then provide a free shuttle into Old Town.

The shuttle would go along East and West Line to the Niagara Parkway and make stops by the Festival Theatre on Picton, the Royal George on Queen, and then return to the parking area by way of Niagara Stone Road.

As other residents have said the next master transportation plan is Niagara-on-the-Lake's last chance to avoid massive overdevelopment and this time the town had better get it right.

Elizabeth Masson
NOTL



The Lake Report welcomes your letters to the editor. Please, write early and often. Letters ideally should be under 400 words long. Occasionally, longer letters may be published. All letters may be edited for conciseness, accuracy, libel and defamation. Please include your full name, street address and a daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated. Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published. Send your letters to editor@niagaranow.com or drop them by our office at 496 Mississauga St., NOTL.



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Glendale's long-term needs are **much different** than Old Town's

Steve Hardaker
Community Correspondent

There has been a lot of chatter about the draft Niagara-on-the-Lake transportation master plan. It has mostly been negative.

But the criticism has also been historic Old Town-centric. The Town of NOTL is made up of five settlement areas with a vast rural area. So, what about the draft plan and how it impacts Glendale?

The document's executive summary states the plan "is a long-range strategic plan for the entirety of Niagara-on-the-Lake that identifies transportation infrastructure requirements to address existing challenges and support growth, along with policies to guide transportation and land use decisions."

The plan will look at transportation needs through the year 2031.

Historic Old Town is the most established settlement area in our vast town. It is NOTL's historical and cultural heart, and it is where tourism is focused.

Down the road here in Glendale, we are the young, upstart settlement area that



The Glendale development plan. SUPPLIED

is faced with a huge amount of development over the next 15 to 25 years. From a future transportation perspective (through the year 2031), we have much different issues and concerns than those of historic Old Town.

Glendale is bordered by Queenston Road to the north, Concession 7 to the east, the Niagara Escarpment to the south and the Welland Canal to the west.

Our network of roads includes a mix of regional and

town roads with a provincial highway bisecting the community. There are currently not a substantial number much-desired amenities here. But with development will come many new town roads as housing and amenities are built.

The plan recognizes NOTL's largest growth area is in Glendale. Under the Glendale District Plan, which was approved by Niagara regional council and NOTL town council in 2020, Glendale's popula-

tion is expected to grow to 15,000 in the next 15 to 25 years.

The current population of all NOTL is around 18,000.

So, Glendale could easily become the most populous settlement area of NOTL. And with the building of the Glendale Avenue/QEW diverging diamond interchange, this neighbourhood likely will become the gateway to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

A good network of roads and paths that support ac-

tive transportation is a must-have for Glendale residents, both present and future.

The draft transportation plan states, "With the Niagara College Niagara-on-the-Lake campus and the outlet mall, Glendale is a suitable location for this densification which will warrant increased pedestrian connectivity."

According to the Glendale District Plan, there are 700 hectares of developable land in Glendale.

At present, the regional roads in Glendale do not have sidewalks or bicycle lanes. The main thoroughfare is Glendale Avenue.

And while there are sidewalks and bicycle lanes between Taylor Road and Homer Road, the section from Homer to the Welland Canal has neither sidewalk nor bicycle lanes. And there are no bike lanes from Taylor over the QEW to York Road.

That all has to change.

Glendale is a busy road with both heavy car traffic, transit buses and numerous transport trucks going to and from the General Motors plant and the two truck stops on York Road.

In its present state, it is simply not safe to walk or ride a bicycle if you want to head for the Welland Canal trails or across the QEW.

We need safe, active transportation throughout our settlement area. Glendale of the future could be a major transit hub and transit dispersion point to other areas of NOTL, like historic Old Town.

There is potential for a future GO train station on the southern border of Glendale. We need safe crossings of the QEW as restaurants and other amenities are built there.

By 2031, a significant amount of residential and commercial development could be under way in Glendale. The draft master plan is a very good start in identifying future transportation needs for Glendale.

Implementation will require a good level of cooperation and cost-sharing among the province, Region of Niagara and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Steve Hardaker has lived in Glendale for over 11 years and is active in several community organizations.



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Winds low, but spirits high as sailing races begin

Continued from Front Page

racing,” he said.

But overall, spirits were still high.

“I did hear, though, that it took sort of two hours for the lasers to finish their one race,” which didn’t help the athletes’ morale.

He said it was the right decision to cancel the matches for the day when they did.

“That was that was the right call as the wind came down. On both courses it was almost unsailable,” he said.

“It was a long day for one race. Oh, yeah. But that’s the nature of the sport a little bit.”

He said the athletes were curious about how the water would be on the Niagara River.

Kristjansson said sailing the river is sort of like “trying to sail up a lazy river.”

“And against current you need speed to actually make any ground. So to make up ground in the current you need a lot of speed. In light air that becomes very difficult for sailboats,” he said.



Summer Games sailing athletes wait and hope for enough wind for a race on Wednesday. MOLLY BOWRON

With light winds, that is difficult. On the river, “you can feel like you’re going fast because the current’s rushing by you, but you’re actually not making any gains.”

He was happy with how his team performed. “They were adapting to the oscil-

lating wind and making good decisions on the water,” he said.

Kristjansson had high praise for the NOTL Sailing Club and its volunteers.

“It’s a beautiful club. We’re very grateful for their hospitality and hosting us. They’ve been really

accommodating with the coaches’ needs and hosting the event.”

Jaime Day, commodore of the NOTL Sailing Club, was excited about the Games being in NOTL.

“It’s absolutely the best thing that’s ever happened to the sailing club. All the

members are happy, happy, happy, the competitors are happy, the volunteers are happy. It’s one of the best things that I can ever remember,” Day said in an interview Wednesday.

“All of the sailing club is 100 per cent behind it. Everyone’s excited, everyone

was keen. It’s real excitement around the sailing club that normally doesn’t happen.”

He said he hopes the Games being here interests more young sailors to join the club’s Learn to Sail program.

It’s unfortunate Mother Nature didn’t co-operate Wednesday, but it could have been worse, he said.

Thanks to the officials monitoring the wind velocity closely, they were able to postpone on shore for longer than normal.

“Normally what happens in a large regatta, everyone goes out and you bob and bob and bob out in the water and wait until the wind comes in,” Day said.

“But what the officials did, they sent the boat out in the race course area, and had constant communication with the wind velocity and wind direction and when the wind velocity was up high enough for the classes to start, they radioed back and said, ‘Yes,’ they put up the flag and said, ‘Go, get out on the water. We’re going to try to get a race off.’ “



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When Niagara-on-the-Lake residents were asked to identify tourism’s impact on town life the positive connections were crystal clear:

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Gatta carries father's **fighting spirit** to gold medal win

Continued from Front Page

opponent, Noah Tam, in 23 seconds, helping Ontario to a decisive win over their west coast rival.

At 16, Gatta is the youngest member of the Ontario wrestling team and the only wrestling competitor from Niagara-on-the-Lake.

On his journey to the podium in his individual match, Gatta encountered a tough competitor in Eekeel-uak Clarence Avalak from Nunavut.

Gatta lost his semifinal match 5-0 to Avalak (the eventual gold medallist), but came back to win bronze against Tristan Sears of Quebec, 4-0.

Gatta said he went into his match with Avalak with a game plan but things took a turn when he sprained his elbow mid-match.

"That's wrestling," Gatta said.

"(The plan) was to wear him out for the first minute and half because he comes out strong and wears out slowly," he said of the strategy he and his coach devised.

Gatta said he'll probably



Zubin Gatta, in red, won gold and bronze medals in wrestling during the Canada Summer Games. LEAH PARKER

take some time off to let his injured elbow heal, but as soon as it's ready he plans to get back to training with the Brock varsity wrestlers.

After that, it is forward to Ontario high school championships and the nationals next year for the young wrestler.

"It's nice to have him back," said his father, Kekoo, a custom home-builder based in NOTL.

COVID-19 and the lockdowns that came with it put an end to contact sports at

all levels of competition.

Wrestling was no exception.

During lockdown, Gatta developed a love of weight lifting and began to lose interest in wrestling.

When he came back to wrestling, he moved up a weight class.

Gatta underperformed by his own standards at the cadet nationals in his new weight class, so he opted to cut weight and fight in the 52-kg. class at the Summer Games.

His father was exuberant to see him back in the ring, regardless of his weight class.

Zubin's brother Cyrus and sister Farrantina competed as high level wrestlers when they were their brother's age.

This is no accident. "That was something that kept me off the streets," Kekoo Gatta said, reflecting on his own experience with wrestling in his teenage years.

"It was a poor man's sport. Growing up, we had no money, so the only thing

you needed was a pair of shorts and a T-shirt and lots of sweat," he said.

Gatta, who now coaches Brock University's junior wrestling team, said his high school wrestling coach was sensitive to the needs of lower-income students.

His coach, Tom Sills, used to pay for their tournaments and the occasional trip to McDonald's when he attended Thorold Secondary School in the early 1980s.

In his final two years of high school, Gatta trained

under former Olympic wrestler Richard Deschatelets Sr., who started the Brock University wrestling program.

"We had no money. So it was really good – family – belonging to a certain wrestling family," Gatta said.

The sport also taught him some valuable life lessons that he has carried with him into the building industry.

"I give it all to wrestling," he said.

Zubin Gatta has previously acknowledged the challenges of committing to the athlete's grind.

It is not always easy to get up and run, but, as his father says, it's not an option.

"Don't start it if you're not going to finish it," he said.

As a businessman, he has led his company, Gatta Homes, through three recessions in 30 years.

"It's like you're getting pinned. You're on your back, but you can't give up," Gatta said.

"You just keep fighting off your back and you get back up on top," he added.

And just like his father, Zubin plans to fight his way to the top.



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Quebec strikes gold in Summer Games tennis in NOTL

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

It was a long and exciting week at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club.

And, on Saturday, deciding the gold medal winner for the Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games required an extra match.

The Games brought some of the best young tennis players in the country to NOTL to compete.

On Saturday, team British Columbia and team Quebec went head-to-head for gold.

They played six matches, each one the best-of-three sets.

During the final, British Columbia and Quebec played six matches, two each of boys, two of girls, and one each of boys and girls doubles.

Whoever wins the majority of the six matches, wins gold.

However, since both British Columbia and Quebec won three matches each, they had to play a seventh



Above: Quebec's Kuang Qing Xu sends a serve back to British Columbia's Denny Bao. Top right: A large crowd at the tennis gold medal game at the NOTL tennis club. Bottom right: British Columbia's Leena Bennetto plays for gold. SOMER SLOBODIAN PHOTOS



match of mixed doubles. This is when the teams consist of one male and one female each.

In the seventh and final match, Quebec's Mélodie Collard and Maxime St-Hilaire battled against

B.C.'s Reece Carter and Aram Noroozian. After an intense finale, Quebec won the mixed doubles match, taking home the gold.

British Columbia won silver and Ontario took bronze.

Tennis isn't the only sport to be played in Niagara-on-the-Lake during the Games. Starting Wednesday, the sailing competition will hit the water off the NOTL Sailing Club.

Final tennis match thrills spectators at Canada Summer Games



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
The Lake Report

It was a fun and raucous Saturday evening at the tennis courts in Memorial Park, as the final match unfolded between the two mixed doubles teams from Quebec and British Columbia.

It was obvious that law-abiding NOTLers were continuing to respect COVID-19 physical distancing guidelines as there was always ample room between the few spectators who sat in the temporary bleachers.

Some friends told me they hadn't been able to watch the Canada Games tennis matches because they were

too busy baking peach pies to be sold at the St. Vincent de Paul Church Peach Festival the next day.

Others were Simonizing their cool cars once last time, primping for the annual Kinsmen Car Show near the Scout Hall.

Everyone has their passion, and I respect that. Heck, I just love watching people competing at a high level, doing what they love doing. A few years ago, I drove five hours to Kempville, way over just south of Ottawa, for a weekend of watching the Ontario plowing matches.

That is an annual highlight in the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville.

For a guaranteed good time, go online to determine where the next National Horseshoe Pitchers Association tourney is getting ready to start clangin'.

Yes, there is so much to do, but still, it was sad that great young athletes were pretty much ignored at some of our Canada Sum-



'Twas a long evening of cheering for young Canadian tennis players for the Kamatovic family of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Quebec and British Columbia played a thrilling final match under the lights and a peach-tinted full moon.

mer Games venues. 'Twas amateur sport at its best and everyone who spectated felt better about our great country's future.

Far from Bill 21 and official language laws and other political necessities, it was joyful to hear and watch the athletes as they "did what they love doing."

Quebec and British Columbia, two traditionally strong tennis provinces, had played determined, hard, fast and fair games as the round-robins progressed, and a heart-stopping comeback by B.C. had forced the deciding match under the lights.

As an extraordinary treat, a full moon rose in the eastern sky, which created a tableau that will never be forgotten by any of us in the dry stands.

Finally, we could forget about trying to decipher the online scheduling, who was playing whom and coming to terms with the fact that a "tie" really meant a "match." At least, I think so. Would someone please tell me again why the sports bureaucrats use the word "tie" when one side comes first, and the other side comes second?

As the non-playing

team members spontaneously gathered on Court 3 to watch the match on Court 2, cheering every point won by their team, B.C. team manager Simon Cass and his rowdy pals from the West Coast raised the excitement level with drumming and cheering.

The Quebec contingent was equally vociferous and we spectators were having a great time watching a brilliant match.

In the end, the Quebec and B.C. athletes and support staff all won. One team scored the last point and got the gold medals. The other team got the silver medals.

The young Canadian athletes were magnificent, with both their skills and their sportsmanship.

As the decibel level increased, a neighbour from adjacent Nelles Street had walked across his backyard to approach the enthusiastic drummer. "Uh oh, a confrontation."

Drummer Cass and noisy spectators looked

concerned. The referee had already requested a couple of noise and enthusiasm reductions.

NOTLer Ken Chan smiled and said, approximately, "My guests and my family have been loving the noise and action over here. We hope you will keep it up for the rest of the match."

Please permit me to give a shout out to some locals who got into the Canada Games, watching from the temporary bleachers as teenaged Canadians from coast to coast played the best tennis ever seen in these parts.

Jim Thackray, Wendy and George Dell, Judy and Gerry Pepe, the Kamatovic family, Brenda Bell and Earl Shore, Joy and Steve Janzen, NOTL Tennis Club prez Hugh Dow and many of the tennis venue volunteers made time to cheer and be awed from the bleachers.

Huzzah!

We are so fortunate to live in Canada ... in 2022.

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FEATURED

Just peachy: Huge crowds return for weekend peach fests

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Everything was just peachy over the weekend at the annual Peach Celebration on Queen Street.

Teresa Cole and her daughter Cherrie, 4, sat on the curb in the shade Saturday eating their Popsicles while they enjoyed the hustle and bustle of the festival.

"It's just as busy (as other years), if not busier," Cole said with a laugh.

Originally from NOTL, but now living in St. Catharines, she's been to NOTL's peach fest on many occasions, but it was her daughter's first time.

As Cherrie licked her Popsicle and watched the crowds walk by, she said she was having lots of fun.

The NOTL Chamber of Commerce organized the annual Peach Celebration after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Part of Queen Street was closed off for the festivities, which was jam-packed with people of all ages.

About 60 vendors and merchants were on hand, the Chamber's the director of marketing and events, Nicole Cripps, said in an email.

On one end of Queen Street people danced to the beats of the Tropical Steel Drum Band, while at the other end people listened to a performance by the group Melodie Italiane.

And, in between, the Toronto All-Star Big Band had people dancing in the street.

As the music played, visitors waited patiently in front of booths for Lepp Farms and Kauzlaric Farms to get some delicious NOTL fruit.

Kauzlaric Farms has been a fixture



Paul Babiak juggles for the crowd at the Peach Celebration. SOMER SLOBODIAN

ture at the festival for a decade. The last two years the family has been selling produce from their farm stands, but they're happy to be back at the festival.

"(It's a) good way to share our farm with the community," said Michael Kauzlaric.

The operation on Concession 4 Road moved into town in 1978 and has been operating for 44 years.

"It's been really good to

participate in this and let people eat some fresh local fruit," he said.

The annual Peach Celebration traditionally attracts huge throngs to downtown NOTL, but Kauzlaric was a little uncertain at first, not knowing if the crowds would return.

No fear: Johnson and Queen streets, and other nearby roads, were bumper to bumper with hundreds of parked cars all day Satur-

day.

As the sun beat down on the crowd, many people beat the heat by eating ice cream in the shade or enjoying a fresh corn on the cob.

However, food wasn't the only thing available. Vendors selling clothing, food and custom-made items were there, too.

Wellspring Niagara had a booth selling many hand-made items, with all the proceeds going back to the

agency.

The non-profit organization offers supportive cancer care to the community, including many programs and services for patients at no cost.

Sue Bernier has been with Wellspring Niagara since 2000 and said this was their second time at the festival. She was there selling her Necklaces of Hope.

There were smiles all around as people enjoyed the balmy weather, music and Niagara peaches.

Kids laughed as towering stilt walker Paul Babiak walked around in a red suit and oversized shoes, stopping every so often to demonstrate his juggling skills.

The Peach Celebration "brings together locals and visitors alike to spend the day not only enjoying our beautiful town and all that it has to offer but also celebrates our agricultural roots with our tender fruit farmers," said Cripps.

After a two-year break, the festival had a mammoth turn out.

"It's good to see the town alive like this," said Mark Lepp from Lepp Farms.



Erika Tubb.



Erika Tubb's delicious peach pie was judged peachy keen during Saturday's Peach Celebration.

Here are the winning pie ingredients and baking instructions courtesy of the winning baker.

Erika's Award-winning Peach Pie

Easy Pie Pastry (from the package of lard)
2-2/3 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp salt
1 cup lard (for the contest, Erika used 1/2 cup lard + 1/2 cup salted butter)
1/3 cup ice water

This is enough pastry for a bottom crust

and a lattice, or cut-outs, for the top.

The top can be brushed with cream and sprinkled with sugar before baking.

Filling

1 cup sugar
1/4 cup cornstarch
1/2 tsp pumpkin pie spice
6 peeled and sliced fresh Niagara peaches
2 tbsp melted salted butter
Preheat oven to 400F and bake for 40 minutes, covered with foil.

Uncover and continue baking for 20 more minutes.

Serve and enjoy.

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Erica and Mark Lepp sell peaches at the chamber's Peach Celebration on Saturday. RICHARD HARLEY PHOTOS



Lord Mayor Betty Disero and chef Chris Smythe help judge the winning pies for the peach pie contest.



Choir sisters Cynthia Fuller and Pam Nowina pour glasses of peach punch for the church's festival on Sunday.

Church's peach fest rounds out weekend of sweetness

The annual Peach Festival at St. Vincent de Paul church returned on Sunday, after two years of being cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was day two of the peach celebrations in town, with the NOTL Chamber of Commerce event taking place Saturday.

Across the church on Sunday volunteers were helping to run various sales, food concession stands and of course the fresh peach stand. Twenty NOTL farmers donated the peaches to the church. Saturday's peach pie contest winner Erika Tubb stopped in to peruse the festival. She said her secret to the pie? Googling "award-winning pie recipes."



Sophia Salter, Angelina Palumbo and Emma Lavelle sell peaches donated by 20 local farmers at the Sunday fest.



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: Is an island

One third of Earth's lava flow since 1500 is said to have come from volcanoes in this Atlantic island nation.

Last issue: Africa's second-longest river, it shares its name with a country formerly called Zaire.

Answer: What is Congo?

Answered first by: Beverley Easthope

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Susan Hamilton, Claudia Grimwood, Bert Dandy, Howard Jones, Wade Durling, Margie Enns, Sheila Meloche

*REMEMBER TO PUT "WHAT IS" FOR JEOPARDY QUESTIONS! IF ALEX TREBEK WOULDN'T ACCEPT IT, WE WON'T EITHER!

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Dylan Rumsey dives **head first** into the Niagara River

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Dylan Rumsey made a huge splash for Pathstone Mental Health as he swam the Niagara River over the weekend.

"I can't feel my legs," said Rumsey as he wobbled his way onto the shore at Queen's Royal Beach on Saturday. Dozens of people cheered as he came out of the water, successfully making the swim from the Queenston boat launch to the gazebo at Queen's Royal Beach.

Though he hit some rough waters at Navy Hall where he got pounded by waves, he kept swimming until he reached the dozens of friends and family who were at the finish line cheering him on.

Originally, he estimated the swim to take him between four to six hours. But Rumsey shocked everyone by completing the swim in under three hours, showing just how motivated and determined he was. He said he only took a couple two minute breaks, where he



Dylan Rumsey's mother Sue embraces him after he finishes his Niagara River swim for mental health awareness on Saturday. SOMER SLOBODIAN

drank some water and ate a protein bar.

Before he jumped into the water at 9:30 a.m., his mom, Sue Rumsey, said she was up at two in the morning and couldn't sleep because she was so nervous.

"But listen, he's Dylan, he'll do it. I'm not worried about it," she added with a

laugh. It made her feel better knowing he had friends out on the water with him.

Rumsey is no stranger to the struggles of a mental illness. He's been open and forthcoming with his struggles with addiction, PTSD and psychosis. And it's because of that, that he's fighting for those who

are also struggling with a mental illness. He's hoping to help people become more comfortable with telling their own stories.

"I was more so just like trying to help other people see that it's easier to deal with things after you bring everything out," said Rumsey.

He said he's not a swimmer by any means, but since people told him he couldn't do it, he wanted to prove them wrong. He spent the last few months training by doing three hours of cardio a day, and lots of strength training.

"I just want to go ahead and prove everybody wrong. And it kind of goes the same for anybody going through a mental health issue," said Rumsey.

"So I wanted to choose something that was potentially impossible for myself to just prove to other people that you'll be able to succeed if you put your mind to it," he added.

He said he wants to see a change in the system. He wants to see a system where people can get the help they need.

He said he chose Pathstone because he noticed they were taking a more natural approach to things, rather than just pushing pills on people.

"This is about stigma reduction and Dylan did a great job because we saw this story covered everywhere, it was a really

unique fundraiser, he was owning all of the things that he had struggled through, he talked about it openly and publicly," said Kim Rossi, director of philanthropy at Pathstone.

She said being public about it gives others the strength and the will to talk about their struggles too.

"If he can do it, I can do it is kind of the mentality, I find," she added.

She said they were grateful when Dylan decided to fundraise for Pathstone.

Rumsey's goal was to raise \$12,500 for Pathstone. Currently, he's raised over \$13,000 and counting. He decided to leave the gofundme open for an extra two weeks.

Rossi said Rumsey is part of the process of what happens next with the money, and they want him to decide where it goes.

"I've pretty much just been kind of expressing the point that like no matter how deep or low of a position that you're in. If you set your mind to something, you'll get it accomplished," he said.



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NOTL Kinsmen's 'Show and Shine' supports Cystic Fibrosis Canada

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

The Kinsmen Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake's annual Show and Shine returned like a roaring engine on Sunday, as collector cars filled the Commons.

It was a triumphant success for the 20th event, after two years of burning fumes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bruce Pinkerton, a St. Catharines resident, was there showing off his "stone-slate-grey" 1958 Porsche Speedster.

The car is in pristine condition with all of its original parts and just 21,000 miles on the odometer.

"I drove back from California with 3,000 miles on it — picked it up from a fellow who had it in a museum," Pinkerton said as spectators stole glances.

He said he only drives it in nice weather, "because if it rains, they call these things bathtubs — because they just fill up."

He said the value of the



Bruce Pinkerton shows off his 1958 Porsche Speedster at the NOTL Kinsmen Show and Shine on Sunday. The event attracted more than 400 collector vehicles. RICHARD HARLEY

car in its condition is about \$350,000 based on his collector books. He paid \$9,000 for it in 1992.

Scott and Carly Barsley were there doing on-site silk screening this year's custom t-shirts which have

become a staple of the event. This year they did a sunset theme, "and this time we put five cars on and make everybody happy, because last year we only had one car and people complained about it."

Ken Slingerland, past president of the NOTL Kinsmen Club, who helps organize the event, said, "We're probably back to one of our biggest years, over 420 cars."

"The crowd itself and

spectators is one of the biggest I think we've ever had," he added.

"I think everybody's — you've heard this before — itching get out. And we tried to get everything perfect for them. And they've responded, all this spectators came out. The food tent is full, the car show we filled up almost every space, so we're happy."

The event raises money for Kinsmen community initiatives and Cystic Fibrosis Canada.

Johanna Cotte, manager of Ontario and Atlantic for Cystic Fibrosis Canada and a national Kin Canada liaison, was there to show her support.

"It's amazing to be in-person again. The Kin are such a big part of CF Canada. They have been raising funding for us for over 55 years, which is an amazing partnership," she said.

"The funds raised are so valuable for our CF community. Our end goal is to find a cure — CF should

stand for cure found — and to help with the care and advocacy, so we're really grateful for their support."

She said she saw "a lot" of cars she likes during the show, adding she's "kind of partial to Vets and Mustangs."

Marcus Antaya, deputy governor for Niagara for Kin Canada, said the show was "long overdue to come back."

"The last few years have hurt everybody, so I've been calling this the 'get back to normal day.' And everyone's having a great time, there are lots of things to do. We've got the food concessions area, which is doing gangbusters — you can by the line."

He said Kin Canada has been working with Cystic Fibrosis Canada since 1987 and in that time clubs across the country have raised more than \$50 million for research.

"And it's a partnership that's not going anywhere until they don't need us anymore."



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2nd annual Jane's Walk highlights the peculiar past of Chautauqua

Jo-Ann Fraser
The Lake Report

What do tornadoes, sky-high glaciers, monarch butterflies and the Crooks family have in common?

They will all form part of the conversation exploring the peculiar past of the Chautauqua neighbourhood during the 2nd Annual Jane's Walk, on Thursday, Aug. 25, at 7 p.m., starting in Ryerson Park.

Jane's Walks are part of a community-led movement across Canada, named in honour of famed urbanist Jane Jacobs, who championed a community-based approach to city building.

Back by popular demand for the Niagara-on-the-Lake walk are Adam Martin, Kyra Simone and Rick Meloen, who will be joined this year by Kim MacDonald, one of the most familiar faces on the Weather Network.

MacDonald, a national host, weather expert and storyteller, will talk about why our last frost is later



Jo-Ann Fraser and Dawn Orr walk down the streets of Chautauqua. FILE/JESSICA MAXWELL

than our neighbours' and how Lake Ontario and the escarpment affect our vineyards and orchards.

By the way, she also knows how many tornadoes have touched down in the last 300 years and how many times the temperature has dipped below -10C during last decade.

"When it comes to weather, NOTL can be considered a stand out community," says MacDonald.

Simone, The Lake Report's environmental columnist, has earned masters degrees in biology and in science communication, and is pursuing

her PhD, will share stories from the perspective of the American eel, the monarch butterfly, the coyote and some migratory birds.

Her stories will outline some of the challenges they face and share some examples of hope for their futures.

"These animals and

their ancestors have been acting out these stories for thousands and thousands of years and the balance is only disrupted when human activities put a stick in the bicycle wheel, so to speak," says Simone.

Martin has a PhD and is an ecologist in U of T's Centre for Critical Development Studies and the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences.

He will guide walkers through Chautauqua's natural history by imagining the neighbourhood 10,000 years ago. He'll help walkers imagine glaciers hundreds of kilometres high, understand why they started to melt and what they left behind.

"The natural history of our area and the glacial retreat plays a big part in today's ecology of Chautauqua's urban forest," says Martin.

"Many tree species moved north to colonize the newly exposed land, which is why we share a lot of tree species with our

southern neighbours."

Wrapping up the event, Meloen, our resident historian and a NOTL native, will share stories of the Crooks family and the area formerly known as Crookstown – which is present day Chautauqua.

"The Crooks were involved in the fur trade, but the bulk of their business was provisioning for the military, shipping grain and flour to Lower Canada and brewing and distilling," say Meloen.

"With their profits, they secured the land now known as Chautauqua."

Chautauqua is a unique neighbourhood with a storied past and an uncommon urban forest. The second annual Jane's Walk promises to reveal more about the area and help people understand some of its mysteries.

You can for the walk on Eventbrite by searching Jane's Walk Niagara.

Jo-Ann Fraser is co-chair with Dawn Orr of Jane's Walk Niagara.



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Juno-nominated vocalist Heather Bambrick will be at St. Mark's Anglican Church for Friday's show. SUPPLIED

Music Niagara season wraps up with concerts Friday and Saturday

Staff
The Lake Report

As its summer season winds down, Music Niagara is hosting two concerts at St. Mark's Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake this weekend.

Heather Bambrick and her quintet perform Friday, Aug. 19, at 7 p.m.

Bambrick, who has been called one of the finest jazz singers in this country by *WholeNote Magazine*, has appeared as a guest performer with numerous jazz ensembles and symphony orchestras.

On Saturday at 4 p.m., "Glory to Ukraine" will

feature Ukrainian-born American violinist Solo-miya Ivakhiv.

Along with American pianist Steven Beck and the CamerAtis Ensemble, she will perform works by Ukrainian composers Ly-senko, Kosenko, Stankovich and Barvinsky.

Tickets for each show are \$40 plus HST and available on the Music Niagara website.

As well, on Friday, Emma Meinrenken, an acclaimed alumna of Music Niagara's Performance Academy, will perform a special free concert with Ivakhiv in Ad-dison Hall at St. Mark's.

Showtime is noon.

Family is focus for 'Labour of Love' at RiverBrink

Debra Antonic
Special to The Lake Report

If you are looking for a special outing this summer, make time for a visit to RiverBrink Art Museum in Queenston.

The current exhibition, *Labour of Love*, features photo-based work by St. Catharines artist Danny Custodio.

The exhibition is a retrospective and looks back to the artist's early explorations of family in Toronto's Portuguese community, continues through his move to St. Catharines in the mid-2000s, and culminates in a recent series titled *Potions*.

The artist's preoccupations with the immigrant experience in Canada, with family, and labour, link the various themes in the exhibition.

Drawing on his lived experience, and working around and with members of his family, Custodio charts the effects of distance and displacement, of individuals forced to leave their home country for both temporary employment and permanent resettlement.

These themes, explored in



Danny Custodio's "Yellow Maple, Euonymus Alatus, Oak."

earlier work, have been carried forward to a new series of work produced with his young children, the next generation.

The reality of migration resonates with a second-generation Canadian and informs series such as *Ships* (2010 ongoing), for which Custodio photographed workers of diverse national origins onboard ships in the Welland Canal.

In other series in the exhibition, the global experience of migration, prompted by aspirations of safety, security, and prosperity, bump up against the reality of hard physical labour.

Images of trees that have been forcibly shaped to conform to the presence of overhead wires, work-boots caked in tar and a lush backyard fig tree, are

rendered with an eye to aesthetics.

But these are the realities and materials of blue-collar labour familiar to "new Canadians," including the men and women in Custodio's immediate family, who found work in roofing, construction, road building, agriculture and the garment industry.

In other series, Custodio expands on this personal history by embracing traditional Portuguese motifs and materials. Series based on tile mosaics (*azulejos*) and flower carpets (*tapetes floridos*) have their roots in traditional cultural practices, transported from Portugal (specifically the Azores) to Canada and adapted by the artist through the medium of photography.

From working ini-

tially with members of an older generation of men and women and the wider experience of displacement and settlement in Toronto, Custodio has more recently transitioned to a project with his young children.

For the *Potions* series (2019 ongoing), Custodio worked with his children and their neighbourhood friends to assemble plant materials into whimsical, colourful, visual concoctions.

A large circular pot filled with twigs and bark, leaves and flowers, ice and snow, suggest the imaginative play children engage in while exploring the natural world.

The titles of the potions add an additional layer of whimsy, playfully recalling the incantations and spells of storybook characters and fairytale plots. Bright flashes of colour and a diverse range of plants substitute for a needle, a red apple, a chorus of mice.

Playful and yet deeply serious, this recent body of work conveys the hopeful aspirations for the next generation, safe and secure in a new home.

The exhibition continues to Aug. 28.

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‘Marchers For Maya’ seeks donations for walk

Maddy Gordon
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Maya Webster is looking for donations to raise money for the Sun Life Walk to Cure Diabetes to help find a cure for Type 1 diabetes.

The walk, happening on Sept. 11 at Centennial Sports Park in Virgil, brings Canadians from across the country together to raise money to accelerate the pace of Type 1 diabetes research.

Maya Webster is a 10-year-old advocate fighting to find a cure for diabetes.

Her walking team, Marchers for Maya, has already raised more than \$650 in online donations, but is aiming higher with a goal of \$1,000.

Earlier this year, after a long campaign, Maya helped convince the Ontario government to cover the cost of continuous glucose monitoring systems for many patients.

She also has become a youth ambassador for JDRF – the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation – and has educated thousands of



Maya Webster needs donations for her diabetes fundraising team, Marchers for Maya, so she can help find the cure for diabetes. FILE/EVAN SAUNDERS

people about the reality of living with Type 1 diabetes.

The walk aims to raise funds for JDRF, also known as Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The non-profit organization helps raise awareness on Type 1 diabetes and supports those with the condition.

Starting at 11 a.m. on Sept. 11, participants will get to take part in a day full

of activities, prizes, crafts and unity, all while supporting the cause.

Maya’s mom, Christi Webster, said the day is a great way for kids with Type 1 diabetes to come together and it helps to remind them there are so many others on the same journey.

“It’s a great way for us to connect with other Type 1

families and is a great way to meet new people,” she said.

“It’s just an awesome day and we have a lot of fun doing it.”

Donations to Maya’s team can be made at <https://jdrf-walk.ca>.

Volunteers for the day are also appreciated and are encouraged to contact Christi Webster via Christijv@hotmail.com.



Jacob Dsouza practices before the show. SUPPLIED

Young songwriter called to stage at Jackson-Triggs

Staff
The Lake Report

On Saturday 17-year-old musician Jacob Dsouza was pulled up on stage by Winnipeg singer-songwriter Chantal Kreviazuk during her show at Jackson-Triggs winery, to play a song he wrote called *Nights in California*.

Kreviazuk heard him

play the song on a live stream over the course of the pandemic, and was so impressed by the song that she found his mom online, reached out to her, and asked if she could connect with him over FaceTime to compliment his song, said Daniel Lamb, his NOTL-raised manager and teacher, who sent in the story to The Lake Report this week.

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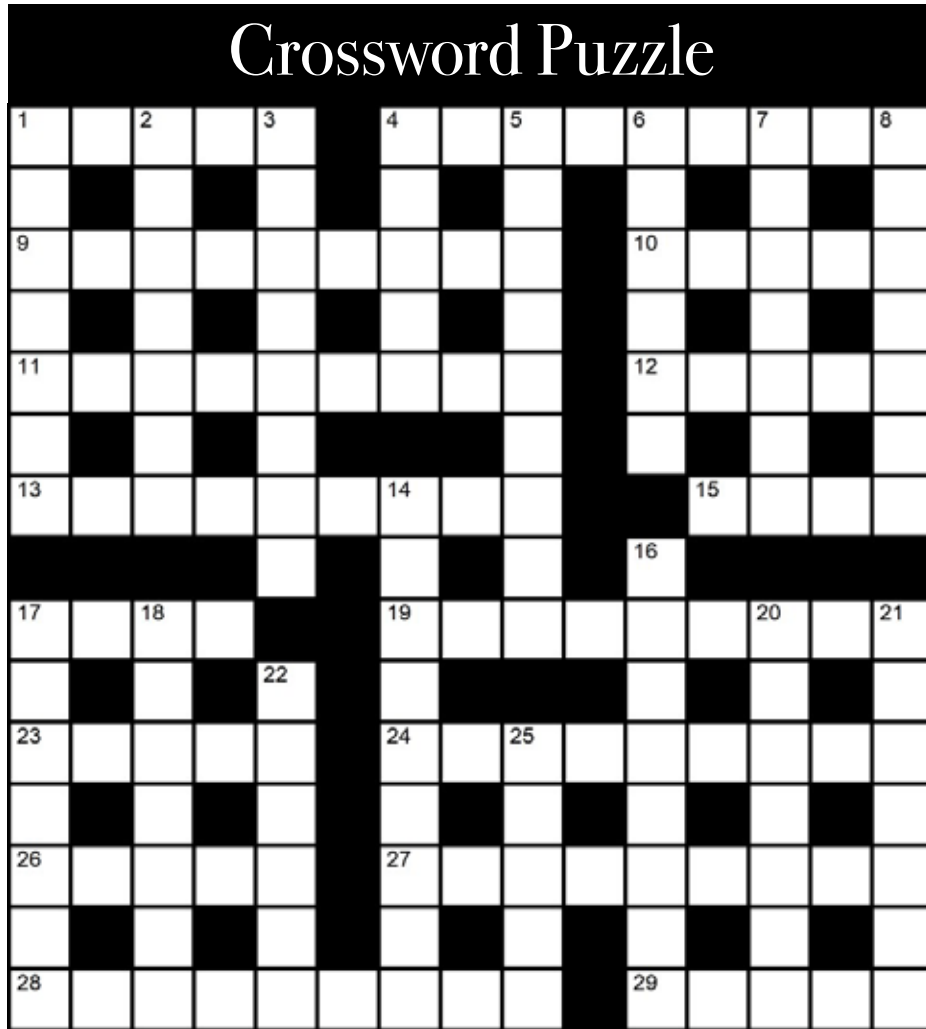


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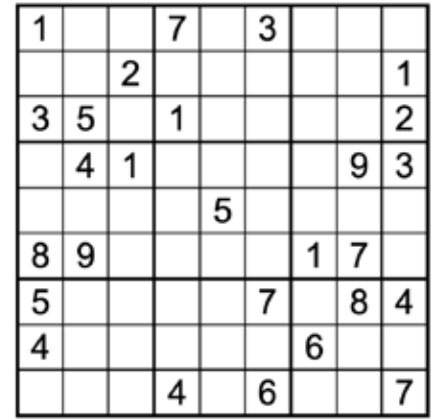
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- 4. Fat bakers make a hash of the morning meal (9)
- 9. Framework of hexagonal cells (9)
- 10. Petty officer on a merchant ship (5)
- 11. Game with traps and checks (3,6)
- 12. Headed (5)
- 13. "Good Will Hunting" star (4,5)
- 15. Cheap WW2 sub-machine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

Down

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

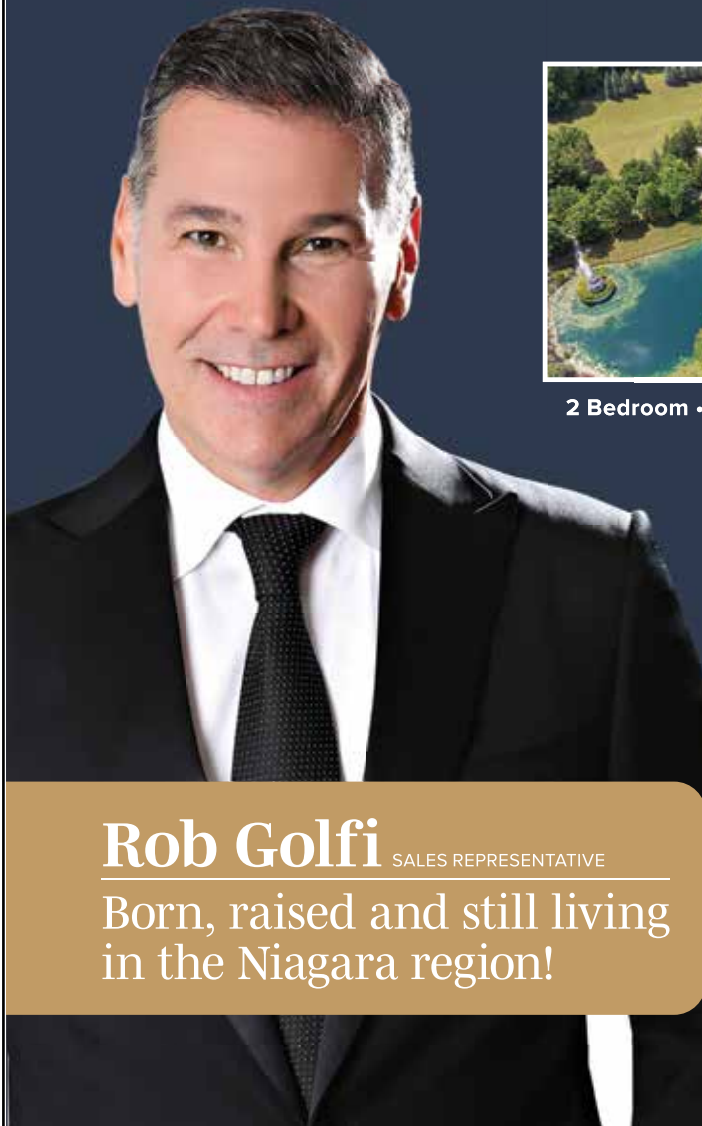


Last issue's answers



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New research may widen the gap between life and death



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

For much of history an end to breathing and a beating heart, marked death.

This all changed in the last half of the 20th century when cardiopulmonary resuscitation, mechanical ventilation and, more recently, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) and other means for sustaining life, became available.

These techniques proved their worth for keeping the body going, if not always the brain, and in doing so, have blurred the transition between life and death.

In the United States and Canada most organs suitable for transplant come from patients who suffer from severe traumatic or hypoxic and/ischemic injuries to the brain.

The result is that harvesting human organs for transplantation purposes cannot proceed until internationally agreed upon criteria for brain death are met.

But useful as those criteria are, they are not perfect. A few patients considered brain dead, unaware and unresponsive using traditional clinical methods, have been found to respond to questions using tools such as functional MRI (fMRI) or AI analysis of the electrical activity of the brain.

Both of those methods are capable of detecting activation of regions in the brain that are functionally related to specific questions. Thus, what seemed to be iron-clad criteria for brain death became a little murky.

Then there is the vital question: how long can brain cells survive when their blood supply and thus source of oxygen and glucose is cut?

For decades science taught that cutting off the brain's supply of glucose and oxygen for more than a few minutes, causes irreversible death of nerve cells. However, recent evidence suggests brain cells may



"Neurons." PIXABAY IMAGE.

survive much longer in some cases.

For example, removing a clot blocking a major brain artery such as the middle cerebral artery, as long as six to 12 hours following a stroke, occasionally may be associated with surprisingly good recovery of parts of the brain affected by the stroke.

Then there is the all-important delay between harvesting suitable organs and reconnecting those organs to the circulation of the intended recipient.

Too long a delay compromises the viability of the organ because the organ is no longer perfused with oxygen and other essential nutrients. This raises two questions: What can be done to shorten the delay? And what can be done to protect

the viability of the organ in the time between harvesting and implantation?

The journal Nature published a blockbuster study in 2019 challenging long-held views about how well the brain survives complete loss of its blood supply and thus oxygen source.

In that study, pig brains were harvested from a commercial slaughterhouse after which the brains were without circulation, and thus oxygen, for four hours. Then the circulation to the brain was restored using a mechanical pump and the brain perfused with a special artificial hemoglobin-like molecule to restore oxygen to the brain.

The artificial perfusate, which they called BrainEx, included drugs to suppress electrical activity in the brain and block potential inflammatory and immune responses.

The results were stunning. Many brain cells showed signs of recovery including restoration of their natural transmembrane potentials, mitochondrial function and homeostasis – despite being without oxygen and any

circulation for four hours and far beyond the several minutes after which brain cells deprived of oxygen, were hitherto thought to die irreversibly.

This study may have been macabre, but the implications were huge and fully justified the accompanying thorough reviews and critiques by invited editorials in Nature, including contributions from ethicists.

The latest study, in the Aug. 3 edition of Nature, was designed to see whether a similar approach might help cells survive in organs such as kidneys, livers and even hearts.

In this case, pigs were deeply sedated, placed on a ventilator after which the heart was stopped and the ventilator turned off for one hour.

When the hour was up, the ventilator was turned on and a pump was used to circulate a mix of the pig's own blood with a perfusate similar to BrainEx, called OrganEx, for six hours. Afterward, the hearts, livers and kidneys were examined.

The study showed that the cells in the heart, kidneys

and liver of pigs recovered and survived surprisingly well when their tissues were perfused with OrganEx.

For comparison, the cellular structure and function in pigs whose circulation was supported by extracorporeal membrane oxygenation or given no treatment at all, fared far worse.

This study is important because it suggests that the survival of harvested human organs could be prolonged by several hours before transplanting them into hosts, thus increasing the chance of successful transplants and effectively boosting the number of viable organs for transplantation.

Beyond humans as the sole source of organs for transplantation is the possibility of using genetically modified pig organs as a common source for kidney and heart transplants in humans – a step now under consideration by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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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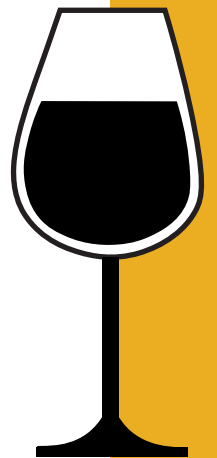
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EXPLORING PHOTOS WITH NOTL MUSEUM

Shark class sailboat was built in NOTL

Yet again there is another historical tie to the Canada Summer Games on now in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The sailing competitions are happening this week out of the NOTL Sailing Club. Austrian-born boatbuilder George Hinterhoeller enjoyed designing and building small sailboats in his backyard during his spare time. In partnership with Gordon Brinsmead, in 1959 Hinterhoeller Ltd. was created. George's work on Y Flyers jumpstarted the business with 42 commissioned after his Y Flyer won the Canadian championship. The company prospered with the production of the Shark-class sailboat, pictured here. The Shark, now famous around the world, was originally built of wood but with the advent of fibreglass, this sailboat became affordable and helped change the culture of sailing in NOTL. It was built specifically for Lake Ontario and was considered a family boat that was still capable of racing. Now, anyone could enjoy sailing. With Hinterhoeller's influence sailing became one of the most popular pastimes in our community and the NOTL Sailing Club was formed in 1964. Hinterhoeller was the club's first commodore.



Guardians of a 19th-century treasure



Brian Marshall
Columnist



The Hamilton-Kormos House. BRIAN MARSHALL

Owning a historic house is like a marriage, it's a labour of love.

Along the way there are many compromises to be made, given an old home's unique and sometimes limiting characteristics, but the returns far outweigh any sacrifices an owner might make.

Last week I had the privilege of meeting and chatting with one such owner in the garden behind his house.

Jon Kormos and his wife purchased their home in Queenston during the early 1960s and he still refers to it as "their treasure."

The house is estimated to have been built circa 1808 by one of the most prominent entrepreneurs in Niagara of the time, Robert Hamilton, for his eldest son Robert F. Hamilton who served as a captain in the Lincoln Militia during the War of 1812 and later as a member of the Legislative Assembly.

For nearly a century and a half, the home sheltered the descendants of Robert Hamilton, finally passing out of the family in 1954.

Stylistically, the five-bay end-gabled home is an early example of the Neo-

Classical tradition in Upper Canada.

The facade is "dressed up" with a Flemish bond brick pattern (the end and rear walls laid in the less expensive common bond) and sports six integrated brick pilasters with simple capitals (caps) recalling those of Tuscan columns.

As-built, the facade would have been strictly symmetrical with all window and door openings centred in each bay and ranked top opening directly above the lower opening.

However, at some point in the second half of the 19th century, the centre bay was altered by shifting the main entry to the left side of the bay and the opening above to the right side (one can still see the original upper opening placement in the surviving brick soldier course).

These alterations, odd as they may seem from the exterior, were driven by interior renovation.

So, in the first half of the

1800s, it was not uncommon for the interior staircase to rise from the back of the house on the first floor toward the front wall on the second floor. This configuration presented a formal foyer to visitors without exposing the more simply finished second floor to view.

But, as fashion changed to copy higher-end homes, the staircase became part of the statement made to visitors and many home owners had the staircase flipped toward the front door.

Such was the case in the Hamilton-Kormos house, although the owners of this home went one step further. They shifted the front entry to line up closer to the staircase and pushed the second-floor opening over to centre on the upper hallway.

Now, for the architectural historian the question becomes: Are the French doors in the upper opening an original feature of the facade (as in the Clement House on Four Mile Creek Road) or something added

during the 19th-century renovation?

From my "cat-bird seat," based on the typical 19th-century Niagara homeowner's practice of reusing original elements where possible combined with the evidence shown on the existing brick/mortar fields, I don't believe these large-paned doors were a part of the original facade.

While there is some remote possibility that the doors could have been replaced during the renovation, I suspect the original opening was a 12-over-12 window consistent with the other windows on the facade.

Moving to the interior, the original pine flooring runs through the house. Of particular note is the original cooking fireplace in the cellar that Jon discovered under layers of brick and plaster, the circa 1830s mantelpiece in the parlour room and the absolutely stellar vertically reeded mantelpiece (period original) in the south room.

The couple had their home designated in 2002 and Jon plans on extending the protection to include elements not captured within the original designation.

For six decades, the Kormos's served as guardians of a part of our shared built heritage and he is determined that their treasure continues to live on.

Bravo, Jon.

Looking to the Stars

Take time to heal differences and enjoy the positive results

Thursday, Aug. 18: Follow your intuition and discover your heart's desire. But concentration may be a challenge, so adjust your thinking and then take it easier. He has two Oscars but also is well-known as the founder of the Sundance Film Festival. Happy 86th to Robert Redford.



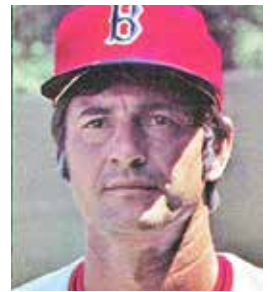
Friday, Aug. 19: It's the day of the third-quarter moon in Taurus with the moon conjunct Mars, making for tons of earthy energy. This could, courtesy of Pluto, give rise to one or more of the seven deadly sins. Be careful out there. Married three times, the late Toronto-born actor Christopher Plummer tied the knot the first time on Aug. 19, 1956, to actor Tammy Grimes.

Saturday, Aug. 20: Today, Mars enters Gemini. This is one of the most important transits of the year, because Mars will spend a long period of time in Gemini, due to its retrograde. Are we ready for seven months of this? Mars in Gemini can't stay still, but when retrograde, Mars will be forced to slow down, reflect and be patient. Pay attention to any themes that come up today. It's very likely these themes will come under scrutiny in the next few months. Twenty-two years ago today, rookie Tiger Woods tied Ben Hogan's record of three PGA tournament in his first year on the tour.

Sunday, Aug. 21: Even though imagination is very active, it may also be very confusing. Take time to heal differences and enjoy the positive results. It was on Aug. 21, 1869, that American business magnate Cornelius Vanderbilt married his cousin, a Canadian woman named Frank Armstrong Crawford in London, Ont.

Monday, Aug. 22: Late tonight, the sun enters Virgo. Whether you live in the northern or in the southern hemisphere, Virgo is the "get

ready for the next season" time of the year. Virgo's role is to ensure that our affairs are in order – the harvest has been safely gathered and we're prepared for the next chapter of our lives. The Virgo season is the best time of the year to fix what's not working, get organized, and do self-development work. After Ted Williams, the top player in Boston Red Sox history is Carl Yastrzemski. In 23 seasons, he was voted an all-star 18 times.



Tuesday, Aug. 23: Being open to new ideas without overreacting and acting harshly makes for the best of the beginning of Virgo, 2022. On Aug. 23, 2005, a tropical storm began to form over the Bahamas. Soon it would be known as Hurricane Katrina, which caused terrible damage, especially in New Orleans.

Wednesday, Aug. 24: Today, Uranus goes retrograde in Taurus. Uranus is the planet of awareness – it's the magnifying glass that helps us see what we couldn't otherwise see. When Uranus is direct, this awareness comes from the world outside – through messages, events or other people. When Uranus is retrograde, the awareness comes from the inside. It's been exactly one year since the death of Charlie Watts, acclaimed drummer for the Rolling Stones.



Please listen to my podcast **Looking up to the Stars** at www.lutts.ca. It's full of information and fun.

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Fall bloomers add **sizzle** instead of **fizzle**



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Gardening Columnist

Is your garden lacking interest at this time of year? Have all your shrubs and perennials fizzled out for the season?

Then it's time to turn your "fizzle" into "sizzle." There are plenty of plants that will keep your garden blooming over the next month. Here are just a few.

Sunshine Blue Bluebeard (*Caryopteris clandonensis* 'Sunshine Blue') is one of my favourite late summer/fall blooming shrubs. Its lemony yellow leaves provide colour throughout the growing season. Come late August, clusters of small blue/purple flowers open to create the perfect contrast to the yellow foliage. This three- to four-foot shrub grows best in full sun to light shade. It is fairly drought tolerant once established.

Hummingbird Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia* 'Hummingbird') is a gorgeous, compact, deciduous shrub that features bottlebrush spikes of extremely fragrant white flowers mid- to late summer. Flowers will usually last four to six weeks. There are several varieties of this native plant available, varying in size or flower colour. 'Hummingbird' is the most compact one, growing only about three by three feet. Summersweet does well in full sun to part shade and can tolerate damp soil. The flowers attract hummingbirds, butterflies and other pollinators.

Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*) has been around for quite some time but there are many new varieties that are worth mentioning. All varieties sport long, arching spikes of fragrant flowers, ranging in colour from



Clockwise: Japanese anemone, sunshine blue bluebeard, perennial hibiscus and cityline Venice hydrangea — good plants to keep your garden blooming. JOANNE YOUNG

white to yellow to various shades of pink and purple. As the name indicates, the flowers attract many types of butterflies. Many of the varieties grow at least six feet tall or more, but there are now some smaller growing varieties such as the 'Lo & Behold' series as well as 'Miss Molly', 'Miss Ruby' and 'Flutterby Petite Tutti Fruitti Pink' (now there's a name for you).

Hydrangeas are one of the longest-blooming family of summer plants. Every year, more and more varieties are released. Some are longer blooming (or repeat blooming), some more compact and some have different flower

colours or forms. There are just too many varieties to go into detail. One of the best species for late summer blooms is the P.G. Hydrangeas (*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Grandiflora'). There are many varieties of this hydrangea, all growing to different heights, but they are similar in that the flowers open creamy white and age to various shades of pink. They usually hold some colour well into September or October.

The **Perennial Hibiscus** has one of the largest and showiest flowers. Although its dinner plate-size flowers and lush leaves make this perennial look more tropical, it is hardy

to Zone 4. Most varieties of Perennial Hibiscus grow to be three to five feet tall, while the taller growing cousin (Rose of Sharon) can reach 10 or 12 feet. This sun-loving perennial can produce at least 100 flower buds in one season, with each flower only lasting a day. It blooms over a three- to five-week period. My favourite variety is 'Midnight Marvel' because of its burgundy leaves and bright crimson red flowers.

Japanese Anemone (*Anemone x hybrida*) is another great late summer-fall blooming perennial. Once again, there are several varieties available sporting white or different shades of pink flowers that can be single or double. Some varieties are opening at this time, while others will begin blooming in the fall. Anemones do well in full sun or in part shade (dappled light).

There are many other plants that will be that burst of bloom at this time such as Rudbeckias, Coneflowers, Sedums, Blue Leadwort, Asters and Toadlilies. So, if your garden is lacking interest at this time, take the time to visit an area garden centre and see what is stealing the show.

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

Obituaries

Patrick Edmund Powis



With profound sadness, we announce the sudden death of our beloved Patrick on August 10, 2022 in St. Catharines, Ontario. Pat was born in London, England on January 30, 1946. He grew up in Winnipeg, but left at a young age to travel and see the world. Pat was a wonderful athlete and excelled in long distance

running in his younger years. As an adult, he took up tennis and fell in love with the game. He practiced daily (even during Covid) and played weekly until his death. Patrick was preceded by his loving parents, Albert and Blanche Powis, his sister Lynne and brother-in-law Ron Kirshner, his brother Edward Powis, his sister Suzanne Powis and his much adored daughter Patricia Powis. He is survived by his precious children: his son Patrick and his wife Sandra Powis, his son Sebastian Powis and his wife Jessica Daye and his loving daughter Bianca Powis. He is also survived by his sister Georgeline and brother-in-law Peter Lengyel and his sister Margaret Powis. Pat had many nieces and nephews, and grandnieces and nephews who he loved dearly. He had a special relationship with his niece Camille and her husband Brian Koscak. But, in his last few years, his greatest joy was the time spent with his two beautiful grandsons, Elijah and Isaiah Powis who he loved with all his heart. Our hearts are broken, but it gives us comfort to know Pat died how he always said he wanted to ... on the tennis court hitting balls. Due to the sudden loss, the family has decided to keep the interment private. In lieu of flowers, anyone who wants to honour Pat, is asked to make a donation to the "MS Society" in memory of his daughter Patricia.

Norman Allan Counsell

Retired grape grower and beloved husband, father and grandfather, Norman Allan Counsell passed away in his 91st year at the Greater Niagara Hospital on Tuesday morning, August 16, 2022. As a third-generation farmer in Niagara on the Lake, he spent 67 happy years with his wife Eileen (Hunter). For many years, Al loved his summers Up North, hours spent with his family by the pool, and his winters relaxing in Barbados. He leaves behind his much-loved daughter Jill and her husband Jim Lynch. Keeping his legacy of red wine drinking and country music listening are his grandchildren, Nicole and Jon, Joey and Sarah and Sydney. He is also survived by his great granddaughter, Briar Olivia Preston. There will be a family memorial service on Friday August 19, 2022 at Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent St., Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Society of Niagara Region. "Al's the name, grapes' are the game." Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



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