



Tony Baldinelli
Conservative (incumbent)



Melanie Holm
Green Party



Andrea Kaiser
Liberal



Brian Barker
New Democratic Party



Peter Taras
People's Party of Canada

Election '21: Your federal candidates

Five candidates are in the running for Niagara Falls riding, which includes Niagara-on-the-Lake, Fort Erie and the Falls.

With Parliament dissolved and Canada on the path to a federal election on Sept. 20, the Liberals

are hoping to turn their minority government into a majority.

It was a close race in the Niagara Falls riding during the 2019 election. Conservative MP Tony Baldinelli won the riding with 24,751 votes, beat-

ing Liberal candidate Andrea Kaiser by 2,061 votes or 2.95 per cent. Those two are back for a rematch.

Continued on Page 2

Assault accusations fly over carriage protest

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara police are investigating after animal rights protesters and horse carriage operators both allege that assaults occurred on Saturday in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

A young employee of Sentineal Carriages Inc. was "bashed around" by a protester, company co-owner Laura Sentineal told The Lake Report. She said the worker is a minor.

Protester Elizabeth Sigrun denied the allegation and claimed she was assaulted later in the day by the worker's mother.

She alleged the woman was arrested by Niagara Regional Police.

Elizabeth Beattie confirmed to The Lake Report she was arrested and released on-site. She also said the woman who allegedly pushed her daughter was arrested and released.

Beattie said she felt mistreated by the police. She was placed in a cruiser with



A YouTube video uploaded by protester Elizabeth Sigrun shows a Sentineal Carriages employee and an unnamed protester getting into an argument after an alleged physical confrontation took place. SOURCED

no air-conditioning and all the windows raised.

After she complained several times that she couldn't breathe properly due to her asthma, police turned on the air-conditioning and rolled one of the windows down, she said.

Police confirmed two people were arrested and released.

Anti-carriage protests have been going on in NOTL for three years with both sides entrenched in their views.

As for the claim that a Sentineal employee was assaulted, Sigrun said, "No

such assault took place by any animal activist against any minor, carriage employee, or carriage supporter. Video evidence confirms this and has been published to Ban Horse Carriages Niagara social media."

A Facebook and YouTube video shows the employee and an older female activist standing side by side but it is unclear what happened, though there was a verbal confrontation.

The Sentineal employee can be heard saying, "You pushed me," while the protester denies the accusation.

Later on Saturday, Sigrun

claimed she was "physically assaulted" by that employee's mother.

The carriage company offered a different take.

"One of our employees was assaulted by a very distinguishable animal rights person," said Sentineal.

The company's employees have been actively ignoring the protesters in an attempt to avoid confrontations, she said.

"My staff have been extraordinarily careful. They don't interfere, they don't engage, they pretend (the protesters) aren't there. And it's still escalating," Sentineal said.

A spokesperson for the police said it is a complicated matter.

"As this was a dynamic situation, detectives are continuing to speak with witnesses and review video footage to determine the appropriate course of action," Const. Jesse Vujasic said in an email Monday.

She said no charges had been laid and no one was injured.

OPINION



Morgan Mitchell points to the low water level in the Virgil Lower Reservoir. The low level is exposing the bed of the reservoir, killing fish, turtles and clams. RICHARD HARLEY

Four Mile Creek neglected by conservation authority

Morgan Mitchell
Special to The Lake Report

I am 13 years old, and I have lived on the Virgil Lower Reservoir section of Four Mile Creek for the majority of my life.

I spend lots of my time fishing, kayaking and exploring the beautiful ecosystem that is our two-kilometre stretch of Four Mile Creek with my friends and family.

In recent months, I have been very concerned for the health of this ecosystem, as the Lower Reservoir Dam, which is maintained by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, has been failing to properly control the water level in this section of the creek.

The system for controlling the water flow over the dam is, in a word, crude.

Continued on Page 7



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Americans glad to **return** to summer home

U.S. couple hadn't seen their cottage since 2019 due to border closures

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

At midnight on Aug. 9, Americans Dave and Laura Glasz were waiting in line at the Canadian border, anxious to return to their summer home they hadn't seen in almost two years.

The couple, who live in Georgia and normally spend every summer in Niagara-on-the-Lake, weren't able to visit last year because of border closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Laura said she'd been checking news updates about the border reopening "about five times a day," and when the chance arrived, they immediately booked their trip.

They crossed the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge into Canada at about 2:30 a.m.

It was a sense of "absolute relief," Dave said.

"We wanted to get some wine somewhere, but it was three o'clock in the morning."

Laura said getting here quickly while things are open was a priority, with the threat of the Delta variant growing.

"We were dying to come, and I was so afraid that (Prime Minister Justin) Trudeau would change his mind — once we got here, or a couple of weeks after they opened it up, that he'd say, 'No, Delta's too bad' and shut it back down again."

"I wanted to get here as soon as possible to avoid any of that problem," she said.

Getting here was a bit nerve wracking, they said. They had to have negative COVID tests within the previous 72 hours, needed to show a vaccine status card and needed to check in via the ArriveCan app, which required them to have a quarantine plan in case they were selected for a random secondary COVID test and tested positive.

With both of them having two doses of the vaccine since March, it was mostly smooth sailing at the border — aside from a long two-and-a-half hour wait, as they weren't the only Americans eager to get into Canada.

Dave said people in about a third of the vehicles were there being interviewed for 10 to 15 minutes. And many of them were being pulled over, though he's not sure what for.

They had wanted to travel in 2020, but it wasn't possible, Laura said.

Skipping the border wasn't an option, Laura and Dave both joke, noting the family of a friend actually did try it.

The couple, also from the United States, own a house on Lake Erie and decided to cross on their boat to check on their cottage.

"And they got caught," Dave said.



Dave and Laura Glasz at their Chautauqua landmark cottage with a tree growing through the balcony. Dave says the tree was there when his parents bought the property in the 1960s. RICHARD HARLEY

"The boat was confiscated, each of them got fined \$40,000, and they have a lifetime ban from coming into Canada."

The couple said they also generally feel safer in Canada when it comes to COVID-19.

"It's not going in the right direction in the States," Dave said, adding Georgia is "not one of the leaders."

"Well, (there's) a lot of unvaccinated people and people believing, or being misinformed about the vaccine, and being afraid it's gonna cause infertility or change your DNA or, I mean, all ridiculous information," Laura said.

"Unfortunately there's a lot of people who just believe the hype and 'My immune system works great,

now I don't have to worry' and 'Jesus is going to take care of me' — hmm, no."

They both got their vaccines as soon as they could.

"I was in the medical field and everything I read showed the safety far outweighs the risk. And I saw what was happening to people who were getting COVID and it just was — as soon as we could get the vaccine, we signed up, we got it," Laura said.

The two own a cottage that's quite literally grown a reputation as being the house with a tree growing through the patio.

Dave's father purchased the property in the 1960s, and he eventually took it over.

Being in the family for so long and spending his

childhood summers there, the house has a sentimental value for the couple.

"Dave's been coming here for 62 years," Laura said.

"My dad, we came over here, we opened it up. He paid all of \$5,000 for it at the time," Dave said, noting now two of his sons have expressed interest in keeping the house in the family.

He said he felt mostly "frustration, anger" about not being able to visit their own house.

"Because we knew we could follow all the rules and we were following all the rules down in Georgia — grocery pickup, not going anywhere, not doing anything. We could have followed it here," Laura said.

It was also frustrating to

pay taxes and utility bills on a home they couldn't visit, she added.

But after a long wait and a tense trip, they're happy to be back and have spent the past week getting the place in order, clearing out cupboards and spots where mice got in.

They also had an addition done last year, which they weren't able to see until now.

Laura said she literally had tears when she talked to her neighbour Diane.

"I started crying because it was just, finally, I'm talking with friends and being with friends," she said.

The two plan to stay a little later this year.

"We missed it so much. We just want to be here longer."

Election race has historically been between **Liberals and Conservatives**

Continued from Front Page

Here, briefly, are the five people running in the riding:

The incumbent MP, **Tony Baldinelli** is again running for the Conservative Party of Canada. He worked from 2001 to 2019 for the Niagara Parks Com-

mission after having served as legislative assistant for several politicians, notably long-standing Niagara Falls MP Rob Nicholson.

Melanie Holm is the Green Party of Canada's candidate. A former teacher, she has volunteered for the Niagara Greens since 2018. She grew up in Brit-

ish Columbia and got her bachelor of education from the University of British Columbia before relocating to Niagara Falls with her husband.

Andrea Kaiser is returning as the Liberal candidate. She came closer to unseating the Conservatives in the riding than

any other Liberal since Victor Pietrangolo in 2004. The mother of two was a municipal councillor in Niagara-on-the-Lake from 2003 to 2014 and now serves as the chairperson of Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The New Democratic Party has again chosen

Brian Barker as its federal candidate. Barker, of Niagara Falls, is a teacher and president of the Niagara-area Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario. Barker was the NDP's candidate for the 2019 election and finished third with 12,566 votes or 18.02 per cent of the vote.

Peter Taras is the candidate for the People's Party of Canada. He graduated with a master's in science from York University and has been an entrepreneur and business owner since 1997. He is married to his high school sweetheart Susanne and has six children.

The Lake Report is planning to host an all-candidates meeting. Look for details in next week's paper.

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Americans have been allowed into Canada for more than a week. **Where are they?**

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Fully vaccinated Americans have been allowed into Canada since Aug. 9 and Niagara-on-the-Lake businesses are eager to welcome back our neighbours from south of the border and the money they bring.

So, where are they? Business operators say they have seen few Americans so far.

On Monday afternoon Queen Street was as busy as any Sunday over the past two months. Ontario and Quebec licence plates stretched down the length of Queen, the unbroken line of white and blue interrupted by a lone yellow and black New York state plate. It was the only one spotted in all of Old Town.

Merchants along NOTL's busy Queen Street say they have not noticed any increase in traffic since the border reopened over a week ago.

"I've only seen two that told me (they were American)," said Daniela Kozak, manager of Glamour Jewellery on Queen Street.

"I saw one today and one yesterday who was visiting a friend. But otherwise, not really."

Kozak was not alone in the observation.

"I haven't seen much of an impact yet," said Cows NOTL manager Sherri McIntyre.



American licence plates are still the overwhelming minority in NOTL's tourism district, despite the border being opened since Aug. 9. RICHARD HARLEY PHOTOS



"It's nice to see Americans again, I really miss them, for one. They're positive and they're happy to be here, they like spending their money and they're kind."

But the ice creamery's manager said they are few and far between.

Americans entering Canada need to have proof they have received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. This could be one reason for the low influx of American visitors, Kozak said.

"It's a restriction and people don't want to do it."

Kozak suggested the vaccine mandate for entering the country is a form of discrimination.

"I think there should not be a discrimination between vaccinated and unvaccinated. Everyone should have the right to travel and the right to visit just as it was before (the pandemic)," she said.

"It's a big discrimination and it shouldn't be." McIntyre viewed the situation differently.

"I think it's just taking some time for everybody to realize that they can (cross the border)," she said.

"It's a timing thing more than anything. I hope (the border) gets busy again."

McIntyre said that while an influx of Americans would be nice, her business has been having a fine summer without them.

Cows often has a line stretching out the door and down Queen Street.

"And that's not Americans, that's people from Toronto – people from within two hours of us," McIntyre said.

The jewelry store has been getting on fine with just Canadian support as well, Kozak said.

"(Business) has been very good with locals and Canadians, very, very good," she said.

Travel restrictions around the world have forced more Canadians to take their vacations within their own country.

"So far it's been very good. I'm glad that Canadians are staying here, to be honest. I am very glad," Kozak said

"Everything you need is (in Niagara-on-the-Lake). So, why not shop here? Personally, that's where I do all my shopping. I don't go to the mall, I support the locals."

McIntyre said Cows has had no shortage of business throughout the summer. The real struggle has been having enough staff to keep up with the demand.

"That's our biggest problem throughout the whole pandemic," she said.

"I think for us it's because (our staff) are students. They're young."

Mosquitoes in Niagara test positive for **West Nile Virus**

Staff
The Lake Report

Niagara has seen its first instances of mosquitoes testing positive for West Nile Virus in 2021.

The mosquitoes that tested positive were found in Lincoln, however Niagara Region Public Health

is cautioning all Niagara residents to take precautions to reduce the risk of mosquito bites.

Public health said in a press release Tuesday that to date in the Niagara region no human cases have been reported to public health.

The health organization

provided the following tips to prevent mosquito bites:

*Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, socks and shoes when outdoors

*Whenever you use mosquito repellent, apply a product containing DEET or Icaridin, and carefully read and follow the manu-

facturer's directions

*Drain any areas of standing or stagnant water on your property on a regular basis, including bird baths, old tires, pails, toys and wheelbarrows

*Make sure all windows and doors in your home have screens that are in good condition

9/11 memories, 20 years later: **Tell us yours**

On a Tuesday morning 20 years ago the lives of North American residents and travellers worldwide changed forever.

For many, the plane

hijackings and the attacks on the World Trade Center's twin towers and the Pentagon left indelible memories.

Tell us where you were,

what you experienced, how you recall the 9/11 attacks and their aftermath.

Send us your reminiscences via email to editor@niagaranow.com or on our

Facebook page.

We'll compile some of your memories and recollections as we mark two decades since another day that lives in infamy.



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Commons keeps off-leash area, but with **new restrictions**

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

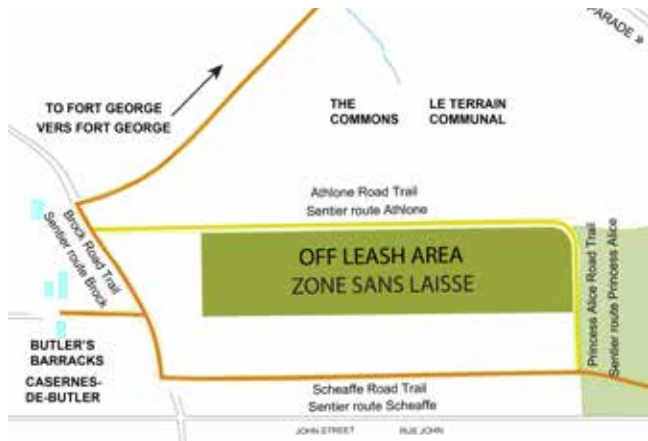
Dogs will continue to be allowed to run free on part of the Commons in Niagara-on-the-Lake, but Parks Canada is restricting off-leash pets to the large field just north of John Street.

Extensive new signs will be installed to make clear exactly where dogs can roam off-leash, says Lisa Curtis, Parks Canada's superintendent of national historic sites for southwestern Ontario.

Pets will be welcome in most other trail areas, including forested sections, but only if they are leashed, she said.

Besides signs on the property, the agency's websites and social media accounts will be used to help educate visitors about the new expectations.

Curtis said the off-leash areas will be available to dogs "for the time being"



A map shows the off-leash area of the Commons. SOURCED

— so long as people follow the rules. Parks Canada will likely give it a year or two before deciding if any more changes are needed, she said.

She emphasized the Commons area and its trails are part of a "multi-use" facility, not just a dogs-only park. So everyone needs to try to get along.

Owner and pet behaviours will be monitored by staff and park wardens to ensure compliance.

If people flout the restric-

tions, they will be "educated" about the requirements at first but ultimately they could face fines of \$600 or more, depending on the offences, Curtis said.

While there are no plans to outright ban dogs from running off-leash on the Commons, it will depend on how people adapt to the changes, she said in an interview. "Time will tell."

A ban would be a worst-case scenario, she added. "Hopefully we don't have to do that."

"I'm really counting on everyone to help with this. We're trying our best to help everybody have the experience that they want to have at our national historic sites and historic properties."

Signs will be going up in the coming weeks, but in the meantime some verbal warnings have already been issued, she said.

The changes follow a months-long review after complaints about dog owners not picking up after their pets, conflicts between owners and other users, and concerns about dogs chasing wildlife.

Dogs will have to be leashed on all other areas of the Commons and at all other Parks Canada facilities in the area, including Butler's Burial Ground, Fort George, Niagara Shores Park and Queenston Heights, Curtis said.

At the Commons, dogs will be welcome on the field in "basically the areas where we cut" the grass

but signs will make it clear exactly what spots are permitted and what sections are off-limits, she said.

The federal agency has tried to strike a "balanced approach" that lets dogs run at the only off-leash area in NOTL but also protects the historic, heritage and environmental areas of the Commons property, Curtis said.

"We're going to increase communications so we're going to better inform visitors and the local community about what activities are permitted in what areas in our shared heritage properties and Niagara-on-the-Lake," she said.

Dog owners will need to check the signs on the Commons to know exactly where pets are permitted. A map produced by Parks Canada shows that dogs will be able to run free in a large portion of the site.

The Commons is "a beautiful place. I was just there on Friday. There's so many

people and dogs enjoying the grounds and the sites," she said.

"I want to see that continue, where people are having a great experience," but to achieve that "balance" the off-leash area needs to be restricted.

Pet owners will need to keep control of their dogs, leashes are to be no longer than three metres and basic etiquette rules need to be respected, she said.

"I know people often think, what was the big deal? You know the dogs running through the bush or running through the grasses or the fields, but we have hundreds of dogs doing that over the course of a week, over and over again, all year long," Curtis said.

"The stress on wildlife is significant" and likewise on visitors who might not like dogs, she said.

"So, that's why balancing all this and our species at risk and wildlife is extremely important."

Even naysayer gets **second dose** at walk-in vaccine clinic

But his wife is happy to be protected from virus

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Chris McGregor got his second dose of COVID-19 vaccine at a walk-in clinic at the NOTL Community Centre on Monday — but he wasn't particularly happy about it.

"I feel like I'm being forced to do something I don't want to do with my body," he said.

McGregor said the strict travel rules in place requiring two doses of a COVID vaccine to fly have cornered him.

"I know I want to travel and I know that workplaces will eventually make you get them as well, just you watch," he said.

In contrast, his wife, Tobi Bath, embraced the idea.

"We're on totally different ends of the spectrum," Bath laughed.

"I trust (vaccines)," she said after receiving her second dose of Pfizer.

The St. Catharines

couple is now among the 63.7 per cent of fully vaccinated people in Niagara. Across the province as of Tuesday 64.67 per cent of eligible people were fully vaccinated.

McGregor said he feared the acceptance of forced vaccinations would enable more personal infringements in the future and he is against the implementation of vaccine passports.

"I think it's absolutely craziness. I think this wouldn't have happened 30 years ago, nobody would have put up with it," he said.

"They'll make you get even more vaccinations. They already did this, so why not? It's crazy."

Bath acknowledged that travel restrictions requiring full vaccination against COVID-19 do force people to get vaccinated, but it isn't necessarily a bad thing.

"I feel like it's something we have to do unless you want to sit at home all day and do nothing," she said.

"It's kind of like, you don't want to get it but you do want to get it, you know?"

Bath got her first dose of Pfizer in May. She said she waited this long for her second dose so she could ensure she got Pfizer again.

McGregor only got his second dose due to the restrictions on travel. They have a trip to Cuba planned at the end of the month.

Bath and her daughter Syvonna McGregor are in the same nursing course at Niagara College. They will be doing a placement in a long-term care facility soon and Bath said mandatory vaccination for health care workers is essential.

"You are working with the more vulnerable, the more at-risk," she said.

She also agreed with mandatory vaccinations for education workers.

"There could be children in your classroom or even adults. I'm a student, I want to feel protected going into a classroom, especially



Tobi Bath was happy to get her second dose of Pfizer unlike husband Chris McGregor. The two are on opposite sides of the vaccine debate. EVAN SAUNDERS

because I'm paying for my education right now," she said.

"I don't want to pay a ton of money to go to school and be unprotected."

Bath said one of the most frustrating things about vaccination is the division it creates between people.

"I like talking to someone who's (respectful). We were having a group discussion in class and some people were getting so angry and upset because they didn't like what someone else was saying," she said.

"It's like, you don't have to get angry, you can have a civil conversation back and forth and respect somebody else's opinion."

Bath disagreed with the popular anti-vaccination argument that the vaccines were rushed and unsafe.

"They've technically been working on the SARS vaccine, which is the same as the COVID-19 vaccine, for years now," she said.

"They just had to switch around the proteins. But they have been working on it."

Niagara public health held the two day walk-in clinic at the community centre on Monday and Tuesday, but McGregor said it wasn't very busy when he was there.

"There was like four people (inside)," he told The Lake Report.

The two day clinic resulted in 160 doses administered. 50 were first doses and 110 were second, communications consultant for Niagara Region Public Health Meredith Maxwell said in an email.



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Delta variant cases on the rise in Niagara

But lockdowns could be avoided if enough people are vaccinated: Hirji

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Like the rest of the province, Niagara's cases of COVID-19 are on the rise, largely due to the Delta variant.

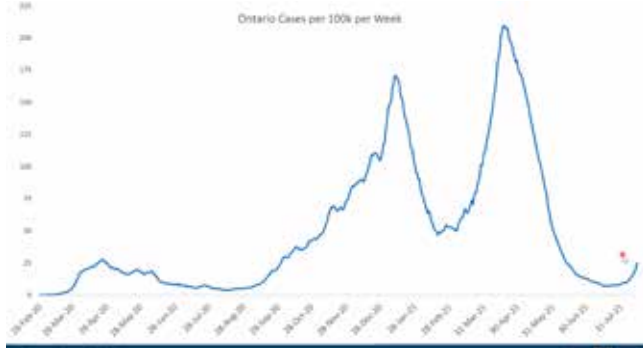
But the region's top doctor says it's possible another lockdown could be avoided.

With the province's move to Step 3 of reopening, Dr. Mustafa Hirji said it's no surprise cases are on the upswing.

"We always knew that as we would reopen, we'd take away the lack of interaction between people and once again create the conditions in which infections can spread. Unfortunately it does seem to be a relatively sharp increase and hopefully the sharpness of the increase won't continue."

About 85 per cent of new cases are the Delta variant, with about 20 per cent confirmed and the other 65 per cent suspected to be Delta.

While Hirji expects the



Ontario cases by the week. SUPPLIED

days of low case numbers are likely gone, "unless we, unfortunately, have another lockdown," he said this time around it's a different landscape.

Compared to our first few waves, "There's lots and lots of people vaccinated," Hirji said.

"What really forced the lockdowns in the second and third wave particularly was when hospitals started to be overwhelmed."

He said with people vaccinated — and he urged more to get vaccinated — the health care system might not become overwhelmed again.

So far there hasn't been a major increase in hospitalizations, Hirji said, but noted it's too soon to really tell. Those numbers will likely lag a couple of weeks behind the case data.

"But the good news is we brought hospitalizations very low," Hirji said. That means health officials need to watch "hospitalizations and ICU admissions and decide if we need to take more drastic action, or perhaps we're going to be able to ride this out with some less-onerous actions, things like ongoing masking, maybe capacity limits." Looking at cellphone

mobility data, Hirji said it's clear fewer people are staying home.

"People staying home is the lowest it's really been since the start of the pandemic, going all the way back to March of 2020," he said, adding shopping and recreation is back to pre-pandemic levels.

"And of course that's why we're seeing the cases go up," he said.

He said the Public Health Agency of Canada predicts that with safety measures completely lifted, cases will continue to rise until it strains the health care system. However, if more people are vaccinated — at least 75 per cent with two doses — problems are less likely.

Getting 80 per cent of people 18 to 39 vaccinated is a crucial step in that process, Hirji said.

Vaccination numbers continue to rise, with about 10,000 more people having received their first dose in the last two weeks, he said.

Niagara Symphony unveils 'pops' plan for new season

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A small crowd gathered on Monday evening at Southbrook Organic Vineyard for the unveiling of the Niagara Symphony Orchestra's 2021-22 season.

Wine was poured, food served and Steven Page, formerly of the Barenaked Ladies, performed two songs via livestream from his home studio.

"It feels absolutely great to be back. Full shows, starting Oct. 28," executive director Gerry Callaghan said.

The orchestra will be performing at Partridge Hall in St. Catharines. The 770-seat venue will be operating at half capacity to ensure safety during the pandemic, Callaghan said to gasps from the audience.

"(Our) team are working diligently with health officials and government officials so that we can open up to a broader audi-



Niagara symphony: Attendees applaud Steven Page's performance of his hit song "Brian Wilson" at the unveiling of Niagara Symphony's 2021/22 season. EVAN SAUNDERS

ence where it's safe for you to come into the hall," she said.

Music director and conductor Brad Thachuk laid out the events and spoke about the orchestra's upcoming shows combining rock music and the symphony.

The season kicks off with Page performing with the orchestra. He played two songs via livestream including Bare-

naked ladies classic "Brian Wilson."

In the middle of his first song "Gravity," he shouted out, "Imagine this with the full orchestra."

Thachuk said his guiding philosophy for the cross-over shows is to make the symphony an integral part of the pop songs and not be "sawing whole notes," as Page put it.

"Down at the Buffalo Philharmonic they jok-

ingly call me the curator of rock and roll," he said.

The season will end with a performance of one of the most celebrated pieces in music history, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, on June 19, 2022.

"There's no more triumphant return to the stage than ending our season with that," Thachuk said.

Season tickets are on sale now. General tickets go on sale Aug. 26.

Testimonials

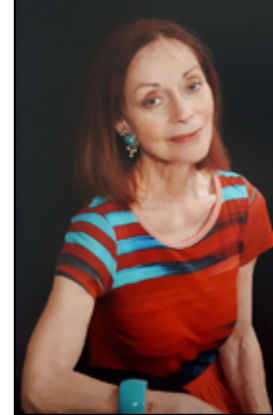
Since the onset of the pandemic, Treadwell has had to pivot to various takeout concepts, such as "Dev's" Indian Takeout and British Pie Night. We have found that using The Lake Report has allowed us to successfully communicate these experiences to our local clientele on a weekly basis. Richard and Rob have been great to work with and we look forward to continuing our relationship with The Lake Report moving forward.

- James Treadwell



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Canada

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

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases: 5
Region active cases: 141
Region deaths: 420
Region total cases: 16,491
Region resolved cases: 15,930

*August 18 data per Niagara Region Public Health



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"Happiness is when 'What you think', 'What you say' and 'What you do' are in harmony."

- Mahatma Gandhi

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Editorial

Don't want lockdowns? Get the vaccine

Richard Harley
Editor-In-Chief

No one wants any more lockdowns.

After several weeks of regaining a sense of normalcy in our lives, we all seem to feel a huge sense of relief — seeing friends, family, being able to go out for a meal, shopping or just socializing.

But the reality is we're threatened by the Delta variant and cases are starting to rise again. We could see more lockdowns if we aren't smart.

How can we be smart? Simple — get vaccinated. Listen to the health professionals and do your part.

Long story short, the fewer people that are fully vaccinated, the more likely



lockdowns become. Why? Because more people getting COVID means more people in our hospitals and the more quickly our health care system could become overwhelmed.

If that happens, lockdowns could be inevitable, according to public health experts.

This week Niagara's chief medical officer of health, Dr. Mustafa Hirji, said the most crucial thing we can do to avoid overwhelming our hospitals is to get the

jab — especially people 18 to 39 years old.

This age group has historically been a dominant spreader of COVID-19. Yet, as of Wednesday, just 57 per cent of those 18 to 39 have both doses of vaccine.

That's not good enough. And it's putting all of our freedoms at risk. Those numbers need to be about 75 per cent before there's a realistic hope of avoiding lockdowns altogether.

So what does it mean? And what can you do?

Well, if you fall into that age category, start by making sure you've got the vaccine. It's safe, effective and will be the reason we continue to enjoy the simple freedoms we all lost for more than a year.

Friends with someone who hasn't been vaccinated? Encourage them to get it. This isn't political, it's not confrontational — just simply explain that it's safe, effective and is our best chance at protecting people around us.

Parent of a young adult? Do whatever it takes to make sure your child gets the vaccine.

It sounds so simple and the vaccine is easy to get. So why haven't we all got it? editor@niagaranow.com

Some farms use alternatives to bird cannons

Dear editor:

For many Niagara residents, the Civic Holiday weekend is an unfortunate milestone.

It's when some of our Niagara farmers start their practice of using bird cannons again, 120 decibels of unstrategic explosions starting every day at around 5:45 a.m.

If the dawn-to-dusk blasts weren't enough, some have added acoustic distress devices so there is no respite from the invasive noise. The detonations and squawking are relentless and being used even if there's not a bird in sight.

Hundreds of town residents are concerned about

this unnecessary and excessive noise pollution, and yet some farmers hide behind an archaic policy created over 23 years ago.

Modern technology has created silent and very effective solutions, yet these farmers lack the motivation to try new innovative solutions that would ultimately benefit our environmental ecosystem.

We have innovators in our community that we can look to as best-in-class examples. Wineries like Ravine and Southbrook have embraced silent solutions and have set the benchmark on how the farming community, and their resident neighbours,

can live in harmony with one another.

We were happy to read that town council is looking at the the issue of noise from fireworks and noise complaints from short-term rental properties.

I hope these initiatives would also apply to those of us who must endure unwanted noise from bird cannons for up to five months.

I welcome any member of council to visit our neighbourhood to really understand the impact of these unrelenting bird cannons. Last year we endured over 90,000 blasts from dawn to dusk. (And don't worry about show-

ing up too early, every day starts with a thunderous cannon blast well before 6 a.m.)

Our own province defines noise pollution as "...any form of sound that disrupts a natural ecosystem or causes a person's property to become unusable or unpleasant."

The province also continues to say that, "noise pollution may have negative impacts on human health, including loss of sleep, increased stress levels and hearing loss, in severe cases."

Pollution is pollution. No exceptions.

Bob Oleksiw
NOTL

Historic hotel deserves commemoration

Dear editor:

Many people have enjoyed visiting Queen's Royal Park, but how many know that it was the site for over 60 years of a famous hotel? Why is there nothing there marking its location?

Well, there actually is

a memorial plate by the steps. It was placed there by the Overseas Missionary Fellowship to mark the centenary of an 1888 speech by Hudson Taylor given in the hotel. But there is nothing for the hotel itself or about the future King George V and

Queen Mary staying in the hotel in 1901. Why not?

Anyone interested in the hotel's history can learn more at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum.

You can also see pictures on the NOTL Lawn Bowling Club website, notl-bowls.ca on the Historic

Photos page.

Does anyone know there once was a green there that drew bowlers from all over Ontario? Or grass courts that hosted some of the most prestigious tennis championships of the time?

Paul McHoull
NOTL



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Four Mile Creek reservoir **needs attention**

Continued from Front Page

There are just a few rotting 2x4 boards held to metal rods by the force of the water. That means when just one of these boards is removed, (e.g. by someone deliberately removing it or by the force of the water sweeping one of the rotted boards over the dam) so much water will flow over the dam that the water level in the creek will drop ridiculously.

This section of Four Mile Creek is man-made, having been flooded years ago to provide irrigation for the surrounding farmland, and therefore is not very deep to begin with – only about four feet at the deepest.

So, when the level drops, there is very little water left, and the shallow areas actually completely dry up. Although this section of the creek is man-made, it has become a spectacular ecosystem over the years.

Our amazing Lower Reservoir ecosystem supports a multitude of fish, birds, reptiles and amphibians, and the forests around the creek support their own creatures.

When a part of the creek gets too shallow or dries



Morgan Mitchell points to the low water level in the Virgil Lower Reservoir. He says the conservation authority needs to do more to fix the problem. RICHARD HARLEY

up, many fish and turtles are trapped and unable to get out of the baking sun, where they die. There have been so many instances of the creek draining this year that I have spotted noticeably fewer of these species.

When these animals die, it also impacts the predatory species that depend on them for food, and many of the herons have to leave the creek to find better areas to hunt.

I believe that the conservation authority needs to quickly take action and invest in a better water control system for the dam, or at the very least put up security cameras both to deter and hold accountable the people that have been deliberately removing boards.

The creek is now experiencing its worst water level drop this year. More and more animals are dying every day, and the conserva-

tion authority is in no hurry to fix the dam.

Every time this happens, it is an incredibly simple fix, yet it takes quite a while for the board to be replaced by the conservation authority.

Investing in ways to stop this issue would be an investment to the future of this beautiful ecosystem and we need to work as hard as possible to preserve these precious wild places.

Morgan Mitchell lives in Virgil.

Conservatives in **disarray** on climate change

Dear editor:

I am writing in response to MP Tony Baldinelli's opinion piece, "The Conservatives have plan to fight climate change" (Aug. 12).

"Human activities are having a real impact on the environment worldwide, and to deny this, is a failure to understand the issue," writes Mr. Baldinelli.

I'm confused. Didn't his party, the Conservative Party of Canada, vote just

last March to reject adding to the official policy book the phrase "climate range is real" and that the party was "willing to act" on it?

Regarding the Conservatives' proposed Personal Low Carbon Savings Account, it seems implausible on the face of it that this approach would produce the needed decrease in greenhouse gas emissions.

Why should we expect an account that can only be

spent on a (Conservative) government-dictated list of items to be more effective at lowering fossil fuel consumption than a surcharge on fossil fuel purchases? Is there any evidence to support this notion? Are there examples of it being used successfully elsewhere?

I'm not interested in Mr. Baldinelli's attacks on the suggestions of other parties — I can evaluate them myself.

I would prefer some honest clarification about what appears to be Conservative disarray over this vital issue and some detail to add credibility to what strike me as rather dubious proposals.

I haven't decided yet where to place my vote. The Conservatives will need to do better than this to earn it.

Leonard George NOTL

CAA 'Slow Down' signs a good idea, **but ...**

Dear editor:

CAA Niagara has come up with an innovative business advertising campaign with the support of its municipal partners, including the Niagara Regional Police.

While the intent of slowing down speeding traffic

is admirable, and long overdue, this sign campaign opens the door to a wide spectrum of companies and residents flaunting their wares and opinions on our streets and lawns.

This concern was highlighted in part by Lord Mayor Betty Disero's com-

ments in The Lake Report's Aug. 12 news story, "Free CAA 'Slow Down' lawn signs illegal under town bylaw."

The sign bylaw is a moot point really, as the town has often turned a blind eye to many other similar violations, such as

signs regarding parking near Ryerson Park.

Would the CAA be distributing free signage, with its name prominently displayed, if it were not for the self-interest of soliciting business?

Samuel Young NOTL

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There's **little support** for the queer community in Niagara

Dear editor:

In your original article about Virgil resident Rudi Koller's "Celebrating Our Traditional Marriage" sign, ("Traditional marriage" lawn sign decried as homophobic, hateful," July 8), he said he feels the town doesn't support his lifestyle, and I'm curious as to which lifestyle he is referring to.

Is it the traditional lifestyle that is so vehemently promoted in church? Or the traditional heterosexual lifestyle that is taught as standard in schools?

I have lived my entire life in Niagara and seen nothing but heterosexual representation.

If you think a flag and a crosswalk is an unfair allowance for the queer community, when every other institution in the region already validates heterosexual couples and nuclear family units, then I can't help but laugh at the sheer ignorance of one's own privilege.

It's like complaining about clean drinking water, while peeing upstream. The town has done nothing but support traditional lifestyles and only those who feel insecure about their own selves would have a problem with showing solidarity for minority groups, such as the LGBTQ2IA+ community.

Had I seen the sign myself,

I might have laughed and walked on.

However, I empathize with Barnabas Farkas and his partner, who have witnessed their fair share of prejudice, as well as young queer people who will see a sign like this as yet another reminder of why they should hide themselves from their families and their community.

In your July 29 follow-up story, "Is it hateful? Experts talk about 'traditional marriage' sign," I also support experts like Sébastien Roback and Prof. Judith Taylor, who so eloquently described the "traditional" lawn sign as an expression of intolerance, and a potential for an increase

in anti-queer sentiment in the region (or, in the least, exposure of intolerance that already exists).

I find it interesting how far straight people will go to feel oppressed. Posting a sign about "traditional marriage" on your lawn isn't just a sign of pride, it's a defensive statement, particularly considering the word "traditional," which carries a historical connotation that has been used to oppress queer people for centuries.

If something is not traditional, it is often viewed as unwanted or even unnatural, a disturbance to the status quo.

So I have to ask, why post a sign to celebrate something

as mundane and universally accepted as a straight marriage, unless you are either trying to rally others under your banner of straight pride, to oppose the liberation of queer people, or perhaps to send the message that you have convinced yourself that the existence of queer people is a form of oppression against your existence.

Then again, a bunch of straight people crying in a public forum about oppression, either those offended by solidarity with oppressed minorities, such as letter writers Jean "Say-No-to-the-Rainbow" O'Malley, or those who feel the need to protect something so omnipresent as traditional

marriage, such as Sandra Miele ("I think I'll make Mr. Koller a plate of cookies and go for a visit"), is highly unsurprising.

Even Karen Brown and Shirley Edwards' suggestion of a garden in place of a crosswalk, while considerate, will only add to the already inconspicuous nature of Niagara's support of the queer community.

My advice: don't act as yet another consoling, complacent bystander to a tantrum by someone who is angry for having to share a slice from a pie that has already grown stale.

Sean Parkinson
Miss Pride Niagara 2014
St. Davids

All-way stop and 'bump out' brings NOTL **up to speed**

Dear editor:

Regarding the new all-way stop and the traffic "bump out" at the intersection of Mississauga and Queen streets, I feel Niagara-on-the-Lake just joined the rest of the world.

For pedestrians, especially those pushing a baby stroller or those using

a wheelchair or mobility scooter, this is a welcome addition. Creating a pedestrian-friendly town is great for tourism.

Bravo to the brave politicians and others who had the vision and courage to make this possible.

Suzanne De Grandis
Toronto

Gateway should **reflect history** and present day

Dear editor:

I agree with much of what letter writer Elizabeth Masson has to say about the NOTL gateway project ("Like gateway project, town survey is deeply flawed," Aug. 12) and the need for more thought.

A generous donation of \$250,000 by the Kowalchuk Family Fund to enhance

the existing entry into the historic Old Town provides an outstanding opportunity to design and construct a well-considered, thoughtful and appropriate entry statement.

The illustration of the proposed project that accompanies the letter, in my opinion, does not do this.

For example, while the town name is easily read-

able, it has a sterile and unimaginative look and the obelisk represents a lighthouse that apparently stood for only 11 years (hardly of historical or, indeed, any importance). It also gives an overall look of imbalance to the project.

Again, in my opinion, an entry statement into the historic Old Town should,

of course, be welcoming to all visitors and should represent its important historical past (the War of 1812, for example) and the significant role of Indigenous Peoples in their participation, the growing and renowned wine industry, and the town's many other natural attributes.

Derek Collins
NOTL

History and environment are focus of **Jane's Walk** in Chautauqua

Jessica Maxwell
The Lake Report

Two Chautauqua neighbours have come together to organize the first annual Jane's Walk Niagara, a community-led event focused on education and connecting neighbours.

Jo Ann Fraser and Dawn Orr decided to organize the Jane's Walk, modelled after annual walks held in communities around the world, in honour of urban writer and activist Jane Jacobs.

The walk will take place on Thursday, Aug. 26, at 7 p.m. starting at Ryerson Park, rain or shine, with speakers on subjects that help residents understand the area in new ways.

Historian Rick Meloan will focus on the history of Chautauqua and Kyra Simone, an environmental scientist and Lake Report



Jo Ann Fraser and Dawn Orr walk down the streets of Chautauqua which is set to host the first Jane's Walk Niagara. JESSICA MAXWELL

environmental columnist, will discuss citizen science and some of the native wildlife.

Ecologist Adam Martin will explain the biodiversity of Chautauqua's urban forest, while Brian and

Marilyn Crow, owners of the Howland House on Wilberforce Avenue, will talk about the home, which is one of the three original Victorian houses left in Chautauqua.

"We have a great cast of

characters," Orr said.

Jane's Walk aims to help people share stories about their neighbourhoods, use walking to connect with their neighbours and learn more about the community they live in.

"We both love Chautauqua and it has such a rich history, so it's a perfect little pocket to do the walk," Orr said.

Fraser said she first heard about the event three years ago after a friend in Toronto went on a Jane's Walk.

"She told me a little bit about it, and she'd done walks for years around her neighbourhood, but there were certain things (in the area) that she had no idea they had any kind of historical background. She said it was fun," Fraser said.

"I thought it would be really fun in Niagara, in a way of really building community. There is a substantive community here, but we just wanted to bring people together."

Jane's Walk festivals are hosted in hundreds of cities around the world, normally in May each year. The orga-

nizers decided that it would be best to wait until later in the year to host the first walk in NOTL.

"When COVID hit, we couldn't do anything. And now moving forward, with COVID-19 hopefully behind us, we thought this fall would be a good opportunity," Fraser said.

Having community members connect during the walk and be a part of the conversation is the main objective, Orr said.

"As you move through, it's a chance to meet people. To ask, 'Where do you live?' and everybody kind of has a story around here," Orr said.

More details about the free event can be found on the Jane's Walk Niagara Facebook page and people are asked to register through the event link to obtain their free ticket.



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Johnathan Sousa and Julia Course. Photo by Peter Andrew Lusztyk. Michael Therriault in *A Christmas Carol* (2017). Photo by David Cooper. Jenny L. Wright and Kyle Blair in *Holiday Inn* (2019). Photo by Emily Cooper.

Marotta's Queen Street development likely to be approved

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors expressed concerns at a planning meeting last week about a large commercial development by Benny Marotta at 135 Queen St., but didn't block the plan from moving forward to council for approval.

Issues included the size of the building and its lot coverage, a dearth of trees being planted on the property, and the encroachment of commercial space on residential areas.

Solmar Development Corp. is developing the property into a two-storey, 200-foot, five-unit commercial space with a restaurant and patio, paved courtyard and a fountain.

"I've been all through this report and I'm concerned because I don't see anywhere that says the type of trees that they are going to plant," Lord Mayor Betty Disero told councillors.

The project began over seven years ago, before the implementation of the town's tree bylaw. The land was clearcut and councillors fear Solmar will not plant a sufficient number of trees to make up for the lost canopy.

The property has been sealed off by faded wooden hoarding, which councillors previously criticized as unsightly.

The site plan could be approved at a council meeting on Aug. 30.

Jeremy Tran of the Niagara Planning Group addressed councillors' concerns.

He said Solmar plans to plant a row of trees at the



A commercial development at 135 Queen St. directly connects to a neighbouring residence on Gate Street, also owned by the developer. Some town councillors expressed fears the residential property will be used as an unofficial loading and unloading zone for the new commercial space. EVAN SAUNDERS

back of the property. He wasn't sure what type or how many but later conceded they probably would be cedars.

Disero recommended planting more trees, particularly on the western side of the property. Town planner Rick Wilson said that part of the property is used for drainage and will most likely not accommodate tree planting.

But extra planting had more importance for Disero than just increasing the town's canopy and resident privacy.

When Solmar purchased 135 Queen it also bought the residential property on 178 Gate St. Disero was worried the residence would be used as a loading zone for the adjoining Queen Street property.

"Here's my biggest concern. We're not extending any commercial area

into the residential but what might happen is they might use the driveway from Gate Street," Disero said.

More trees planted at the back of the property would prevent commercial use of the residence and ensure it doesn't get turned into a parking lot, she said.

Tran said he did not know where the loading zone would be on the property.

Fears about the encroachment of the commercial building on the residential properties on Gate Street were further compounded when Tran informed council there was no plan for the Gate Street property and the residence would remain vacant for the foreseeable future.

"178 Gate St. has been vacant for I guess the last five years, as is 184 Gate St. It's also a vacant house, as is the next house, which is a holiday house," Coun. Allan

Bisback said.

Bisback was concerned the neighbourhood is being hollowed out and that Solmar might be saving the residential property for commercial use.

"There's quite a bit of concern that this house needs to be protected. I think there would be quite a few residents who are suspicious of the way this is being designed," he said.

"We need people in those houses."

The mayor said she would not be surprised if Solmar applied for a zoning change for the residential property.

"Niagara-on-the-Lake has always been traditionally opposed to the encroachment of commercial into the residential area," she said in an interview later.

The proposed development is significantly larger than previous builds on the property. The previous

building covered 25.6 per cent of the lot but the new commercial site will have 60 per cent lot coverage, according to a staff report.

"It takes up almost the whole lot," Disero said. The massive structure could be imposing to bordering residences on Gate Street, with its western side a large doorless wall extending roughly 200 feet back with a few scattered windows.

"It looks like a barracks," Disero said.

"When you look out your back window and see a huge wall. It is concerning."

Disero hoped that planting trees on the western side of the property would mitigate the building as an eyesore but no planting is in the books.

"I just wish that they were able to put some trees into that back area and provide a little bit of shading and a

little privacy for everybody," she told The Lake Report.

Not all councillors felt that the building's design was cumbersome.

"I'm quite comfortable. It looks like the developer is trying to make a property that looks like it fits and is in character with the surrounding buildings," Coun. Wendy Cheropita said.

Further arboreal concerns were raised regarding a large sycamore tree on Gate Street that may need to be cut down to install services for the site.

"It's actually a stunning tree. So, I guess anything we can do to save it would be helpful," Disero said.

"Staff and the applicant would certainly want to preserve that tree, if at all possible," Wilson said.

"If the tree were to be lost there would be compensation provided."

But Coun. Gary Burroughs noted, "Compensation ain't gonna do it in this tree's case."

The site will have a large paved courtyard with a fountain centrepiece. Coun. Sandra O'Connor wondered what the risk of water runoff would be to surrounding properties.

Tran said drainage had been approved by town staff and the site would have two large underground stormwater containers installed to regulate water runoff.

The stormwater tanks would be installed at the back of the property where the ground has been cleared of archeological concerns, Tran said.

The delayed project has had construction hoarding up for years, an issue that councillors have raised at past meetings.

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Mike Shatkosky
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RiverBrink hosts film fest under the stars

Colin Brezicki
Special to The Lake Report



RiverBrink curator Debra Antoncic. FILE PHOTO

RiverBrink Art Museum is one venue for the Mighty Niagara Film Festival to be held under the stars this week, until Sunday, at multiple venues.

Produced and organized by the Niagara Artists Centre, the films at RiverBrink run Thursday to Saturday. Gates open each evening at 8 and screening begins at sunset. Seating in the gardens at RiverBrink is limited to 30 for each viewing.

The program is varied and diverse – and of special interest to Niagara audiences.

All films are made about, or in, Niagara, by filmmakers with connections to the region. The program at RiverBrink kicks off Thursday with “The Falls,” directed by Kevin McMahon, a documentary on the beauty of Niagara Falls, the eccentric character of the Canadian “capital of kitsch,” and the

tragic mishaps that have occurred over the years.

A short film follows: “Gordon Reeve’s Niagara Strait,” by Justus Duntsch, highlights the production and installation of a site-specific sculpture unique to the region.

Friday evening opens with “Cut,” directed by Mike Hoolboom. It looks at how cinema and the assembly line both cut the body in new ways, organizing newly urban work forces. “Fixed/Fleeting” by Julianna D’Intino contrasts

an early Italian immigrant’s passage through Ellis Island with the artist’s own experience of the July 4 holiday as a young girl.

Two more short films round out the evening. “Michael Snow, Timed Images” (Tracy van Oosten and Lesley Bell) examines the multi-media art installation at Brock University in 1972, and “Clearing Spaces” (Joy and Rose Broadbent), a psycho-fertile thriller that deals with the healing and harrowing journey of birth and loss.

Saturday opens with “Call Me Human” (Kim O’Bomsawin), a film about the loss of a language, a culture and its traditions. On the trail of Papakassik, the master of the caribou, the film proposes a foray into a people’s multi-millennial history.

“Blood and Water,” directed by Layla Black, features Indigenous and non-Indigenous Juno-nominated musicians, authors, elders and youth as it sheds new light on the modern-day impact and generational trauma caused by residential schools. The Saturday lineup at RiverBrink is sponsored by Virginia Medland.

The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased in advance at the Niagara Artists Centre nac.org/mighty-niagara-film-fest.

Colin Brezicki is a RiverBrink member and volunteer.

NOTL releases new pedestrian bike map

Staff
The Lake Report

Those looking to cycle around Niagara-on-the-Lake have a newly updated map to guide them.

The Town of NOTL’s community safety committee released a new bike map for 2021, replacing the previous one from 2018.

The committee said the

map, available online only for now, is intended to assist cyclists, both tourists “who may not know the area and are primarily weekend riders, as well as local riders who may need a refresher on rules of the road for cyclists.”

The committee said it hopes to produce a paper map again in early 2022 if funding is available.



The safety committee’s NOTL Bike Map is available online at www.cyclenotl.ca. SUPPLIED

RIDDLE ME THIS

I shave every day, but my beard stays the same. What am I?

Last issue: I shave every day, but my beard stays the same. What am I?

Answer: A barber

Answered first by: Margie Enns

Also answered correctly (in order) by:

Bill Hamilton, Mary Drost, Josh Langendoen, Margaret Garaughty, Carol Durling, Maria Janeiro, Karunesh Makker, Robert Wilms, Elaine Landray, Sheila Meloche

Email answers, with your name, to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to win a prize. (Subject line: Riddle me this)

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Proud winners of NOTL’s Choice Awards 2020



Queenston and the portage from Niagara Falls

This is the first in a four-part series based on a talk given as a part of the Niagara Historical Society's lecture series. Because of the pandemic, the series, "All along the Waterfront" was done via Zoom. All of the talks are available online through the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum.



The portage route took people around the Niagara River. SUPPLIED

Linda Fritz
Special to The Lake Report

There is much of historical significance in Queenston.

It survived the War of 1812, and was home to several well-known people: Laura Secord, Robert Hamilton and William Lyon Mackenzie, among them. Rather than concentrate on people, I am focusing on the village's relationship to the Niagara River.

To begin at the beginning, it's necessary to know why Queenston exists.

Local geography comes into play. The Roy Terrace on the Ontario side of the Niagara River and the

Eldridge Terrace, which is just across the river in New York state, mark the height of what was Lake Iroquois during the time that glaciers covered North America.

Lake Iroquois eventually became Lake Ontario. When the glacier receded about 12,000 years ago, Niagara Falls was born here, where Queenston and its sister village Lewiston sit today. The water fell 11 metres over the escarpment from a small Lake Erie into Lake Iroquois.

At the time, the lake plain from Queenston to

Niagara-on-the-Lake was covered with the waters of Lake Iroquois. The height of the lake was the same 11 metres, the height of the Niagara escarpment.

The site of the birth of Niagara Falls was discovered by a geologist named Dr. Roy Spencer and today this site is known as Roy Terrace.

Indigenous peoples were the first to inhabit the area. By the time Europeans arrived, the Neutral Confederacy, a political and cultural union of Iroquoian nations who lived in the Niagara

area, used the river and its shores for hunting and fishing. They also cultivated crops of corn, beans and squash as well as tobacco.

The earliest European on record to acknowledge Niagara Falls was Rene Brehant de Gallinee, who saw them in 1669.

Later came Father Louis Hennepin, a Franciscan priest, who accompanied Rene Robert Cavalier, Sieur de LaSalle's team of explorers in 1678. Hennepin wrote extensively of his travels. The RiverBrink Art Museum library in Queenston has a collection of his letters.

Moving into the 18th century, the European colonists wanted to open the interior to the fur trade and to the military. They wanted forts and trading posts.

Since the only efficient transportation method was by water, the real issue became how to get around the falls.

They needed a portage.

The portaging of goods has been described as the

second-oldest economic activity in North America, trade being first.

The Niagara River was the main route for the transfer of military supplies and fur trading items. Along with the return shipments of furs, portaging became the chief economic activity of the area.

The original portage was on the east, or American, side of the river. It was shorter than the Canadian route -- about 13 kilometres versus nearly 18 kilometres. Queenston and Lewiston both were bustling ports.

And then came 1775. The American Revolution changed Queenston's fortunes. By 1790 it was clear that the Canadian portage was the only one open to the British.

Enter Robert Hamilton. Born in Scotland in 1753, Hamilton was a merchant and politician. By 1780, he was living in Upper Canada and had formed a partnership with Richard Cartwright to supply goods

to the British army at Fort Niagara. Around 1784, he settled in Queenston.

After the American Revolution, Lord Dorchester, the governor general of British North America, asked for tenders to open a portage road. Robert Hamilton was one of the two applicants.

Hamilton had been using the Canadian portage route since 1788 and had hired settlers to provide the necessary oxen and wagons. These settlers wanted to continue with what was regular work and pay. They petitioned the government in favour of Hamilton, who won the contract.

The portage road ran from Queenston to Chippawa. Hamilton built small storehouses in both villages.

Meanwhile, the British military built a wharf, guardhouses, blockhouses and two-storey storehouses at Queenston, Chippawa and Fort Erie. The military and Hamilton's staff worked together on these projects.

Next: Queenston was a busy inland port.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Information Centre #1

Baker Road Wastewater Treatment Plant Pollution Prevention Control Plan & Master Servicing Plan Update

Niagara Region has started an environmental assessment for the Baker Road Wastewater Treatment Plant Pollution Prevention Control Plan and Wastewater Master Servicing Plan Update. This Wastewater Treatment Plant services the Town of Grimsby, the Town of Lincoln and the Township of West Lincoln (Smithville area). The recommendations from the study will ensure we can accommodate further growth expected by 2041 and beyond and meet the regulatory requirements established by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

This study will satisfy Phases 1 and 2 of the Municipal Engineers Association Class Environmental Assessment process (October 2000, as amended in 2007, 2011 and 2015), which is an approved process under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. This study will include an evaluation of alternatives to support the long-term sustainability and management of the wastewater systems.

Public feedback is important. Information about the project will be available on Niagara Region's website as part of Public Information Centre # 1. You can learn about how this project will contribute to Niagara Region's overall growth plan, key servicing issues being considered, and how you can have your voice heard.

Information regarding the 2021 Baker Road Pollution Prevention Control Plan and Wastewater Master Servicing Plan Update will be made available on the project website beginning **August 25, 2021**. This will be followed with a two-week period to submit Public Information Centre related comments to the Project Team. Access the project website using the link below or by scanning the QR Code with your smart phone.

Virtual Public Information Centre # 1

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

niagararegion.ca/projects/baker-road-wastewater-treatment-plant

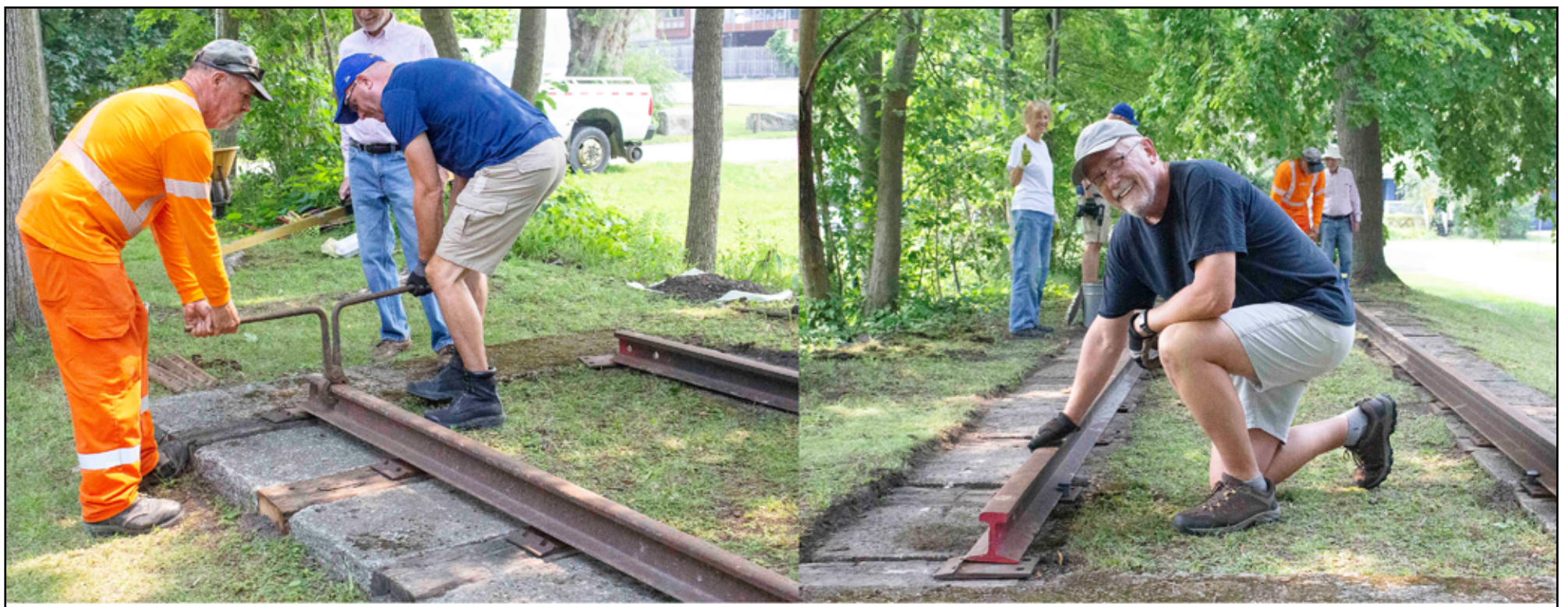
Ilija Stetic, B.Sc., PMP
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519-748-1440 ext. 4264 julien.bell@gmblueplan.ca

Personal information collected or submitted in writing at public meetings will be collected, used and disclosed by members 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 should be referred to the Privacy Office at 905-980-6000, ext. 3779 or FOI@niagararegion.ca.

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend and participate in meetings or events, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Please contact the Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.





Thank you, PGM Rail Service

A message of congratulations is in order for PGM Rail Services from Niagara Falls, for their generous donation of rails, plates, spikes and tools required for the partial restoration of the locomotive engine house site on Turntable Way!

On the morning of July 20th, crews from PGM arrived on Turntable Way with a massive trailer and self loader to deliver two 30-foot long vintage steel rails to be placed on top of the historical locomotive service pit.

Each length weighed 800 lbs and the PGM staff expertly lifted and placed the rails onto the service pit and spaced them precisely 56 1/2 inches apart, official standard gauge.

These rails were salvaged from an old CPR line north of Pickering, Ontario. On the sides of each rail you can see the words cast into the steel reading:

CPR BVG Bochum 8 1902 80lbs

Interpreted, the inscription says: 'These rails were manufactured for Canadian Pacific Railway by BVG Steelworks in Bochum, Germany in August 1902 and have a weight of 80 lbs per yard of length.'

PGM also donated 26 tie plates and 100 steel spikes for the Dock Area volunteers to secure the rails solidly to authentic wood ties that were salvaged from a nearby property.

Thanks goes out to the generosity of PGM's owner Peter Murdza and the professionalism of his staff, Chantal Sirard and Nick Leuchin. With their contributions, the entire service pit restoration project was successfully completed from beginning to end in just 72 hours.

Also a message of thanks goes out to the 125 railroad enthusiasts in the Niagara Region who voiced their support for this project by email and letters to the Town.

Signed on behalf of all the dedicated Dock Area Residents who believe in the preservation and recognition of the unique history of Niagara-on-the-Lake.





Stephen Jenkins during club championships. RON PLANCHE

Jenkins has **career day** but Derby scoops top spot

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Steven Jenkins posted a career low 1-under 35 in men's league play last Thursday and collected 24 points for tops under the modified Stableford scoring system.

But his round wasn't quite good enough to win low gross as 30-time men's club champion Mark Derbyshire went one better with a 2-under 34.

Derbyshire's day included a spectacular eagle 3 on the long par-5 fifth hole.

Current men's champ James Grigjanis-Meusel also had a 35.

John Read and Keith Dexter tied for second with 23 Stableford points, followed by Earl Shore and Ian Rutherford with 21 each.

Roman Mamalyga was closest to the pin on #4 and Dan Regan was closest on #9.

Derbyshire collected \$65 in gross skins for his eagle on #5 and Grigjanis-Meusel won a skin for a birdie on #8.

No net skins were won, so the \$200 in prize money carries over to this week.



The highly prized WOOFs Trophy. SUPPLIED

In WOOFs league play on Aug. 17, Drew Porter led the way with a 39 while Grant Williams took low net. Brock Sansom's birdie on the par-5 third hole won the hidden hold. Darryl Fry was closest to the pin on #4 and Ken Burr is \$66 richer thanks to the 50/50 draw.

On Aug. 10, Jim Masze-ros and Ralph Rickard shared low gross honours and Gerry Sibbald was low

net. Rick Janes had a birdie on #7 to win the hidden hole and closest to the pin on #4 was Dean McCann. Randy McCartney was \$50 in the 50/50 draw.

The annual WOOFs Cup tournament will be played on Aug. 31, league co-ordinator Bill Katrynuk announced.

Golfers will compete for the cup, which has been newly refurbished

by club member and wood craftsman Todd Watson.

To make things interesting, all players will tee off from the forward blocks, so some really low scores are anticipated.

WOMEN'S RESULTS

In the nine hole women's league on Tuesday, Margot Hickson and Lynne Heaman tied for low net with 32. Ria Rosenberg sank the longest putt while Trish Anthony had the longest drive.

The 18 hole women's league held a "fairways hit" competition Tuesday and club champion Yolanda Henry took first-place prize money of \$20 by hitting it straight and reaching six fairways. Marg Ketcheson and Judy Mantle hit five fairways and won \$10 each.

Henry also won low gross with an 85, followed by Mantle with 92 and Barbara Ahluwalia with 93.

Low net of 71 was shared by five women: Donna Lailey, Sharron Marlow, Christine Earl, Mantle and Ahluwalia.

Peggy Larder had a chip-in on #9 and birdies were recorded by Maria Townley (#3), Shelley Sansom (#7) and Henry (#11).

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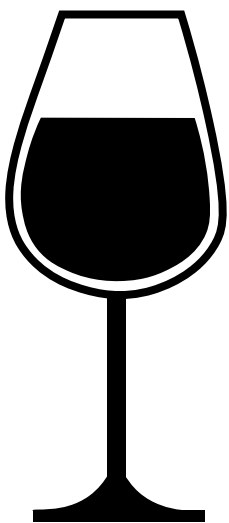
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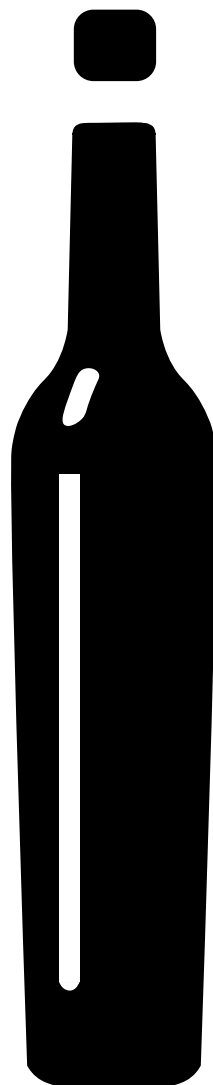
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Young entrepreneur starts business to help businesses

Molly Bowron
Special to The Lake Report



Student Janvi Ganatra has launched her own graphics and design business in NOTL. SUPPLIED

Organization and planning are key to having a successful business and with most things being online, having a clean website for a company is non-negotiable.

Niagara-on-the-Lake teenager Janvi Ganatra has created an online business that aims to help other businesses with their organizational needs.

Ganatra said her graphic design and organizational company wants “to help local businesses and small businesses, by providing them with visual and organizational solutions.”

Among its services are graphic design, web design,

brochures and more, said Ganatra, 18.

Flourish Design’s website, flourish-designs.ca, has an eye-catching layout with helpful tools and an easy-

to-use system.

Ganatra, who will be studying systems design engineering at the University of Waterloo this fall, said one of her goals for

clients is to tackle their digital organization so they have more time to do what matters most.

She is currently designing brochure menus for a NOTL restaurant, has done logo design work for a social service organization and created social media content and graphics for a podcast.

Starting a small business in the middle of a global pandemic may seem impossible, but Ganatra said with more businesses relying on online marketing and communication, the pandemic actually inspired her business model.

Her interest in launching her own company began in Grade 11.

In starting her journey,

Ganatra got involved in the Summer Company Program, an entrepreneurship program that was offered through a co-op from Brock University and the District School Board of Niagara.

Through that, “I had a little experience in how to make a business plan.”

The program offers participants the opportunity to explore entrepreneurship as a potential career path by allowing them to learn from entrepreneurs.

Thanks to her involvement, Ganatra was able to create a pitch and have her idea sent out to investors, where her company first gained its roots.

Ganatra said the mentor she was matched with, and with whom she remains in

contact, was a big help and “has had a pretty good impact on my entrepreneurial journey.”

Besides launching her own small business, the teenager has been an active part of the Lord Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council for the past four years.

The council consists of a group of NOTL young people 13 to 18 who encourage youth involvement in their community and give a voice to the town’s young people.

Ganatra said the council has helped her stay involved in the community.

The aspiring entrepreneur said she is excited to start university and hopes Flourish Designs will flourish beyond this summer.



Michaela Grant and Katrina Boccia show off one of the backdrops for their new business Selfie Mode, which will open on Mary Street on Aug. 21. RICHARD HARLEY

Sorella Niagara market showcases arts, crafts and new local business

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum was packed with vendors outdoors on Saturday, selling various arts and crafts during the first-ever Sorella Niagara market.

Bianca Sorrenti, a St. Davids resident who runs the market with her friend Stephanie Panucci, said the first day was a success, and they plan to do it again in various locations in Niagara.

“It’s going well. I mean the weather turned out perfectly,” said Sorrenti.

“The NOTL Museum is

beautiful. It’s a great location and close to the main street, so we’re getting lots of traffic and lots of exposure, which is great for our vendors.”

Both women thanked the museum for letting them use the lawn and for helping with the event.

Two other young female entrepreneurs also used the venue as a way to kick off their new NOTL photography business, Selfie Mode.

Katrina Boccia and Michaela Grant set up their selfie booth for the first time to give a preview of what they offer — a place for friends, families, pho-

tographers or anyone else to come and take photos against pristine backdrops.

“We have 13 different Insta-worthy backdrops that we’ve created — everything from the ‘90s to your private jet sets, and everything in between,” Boccia said.

“Our backdrops change within different holidays and stuff, so we’ll do a Christmas one, Halloween one. We have all that planned out as well.”

Boccia said there’s a backdrop “for everybody.”

The two are hosting a grand opening for Selfie Mode’s own location on Aug. 21, at 376 Mary St.



FORM 2

Expropriations Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.26 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO EXPROPRIATE LAND

IN THE MATTER OF an application by The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake for approval to expropriate all right, title and interest (fee simple) for municipal purposes and to permit the construction, maintenance and use of a sanitary sewer with all necessary appurtenances including equipment, pipes and related infrastructure.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made for the approval to expropriate all right, title and interest (fee simple) for municipal purposes and to permit the construction, maintenance and use of a sanitary sewer with all necessary appurtenances including equipment, pipes and related infrastructure, in the lands described as:

- Part of the Common Elements of Niagara North Vacant Land Condominium Plan No. 302
- Being Part of PINs 46502-0001 (LT) to 46502 – 0038 (LT) inclusive
- Parts 1 and 2 Reference Plan 30R- 15739
- Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Any owner of lands in respect of which notice is given who desires an inquiry into whether the taking of such land is fair, sound and reasonably necessary in the achievement of the objectives of the expropriating authority shall so notify the approving authority in writing,

(a) in the case of a registered owner, served personally or by registered mail, within thirty (30) days after the registered owner is served with the notice, or, when the registered owner is served by publication, within (30) days after the first publication of the notice;

(b) in the case of an owner who is not a registered owner, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of the notice.

The approving authority is:

The Council of The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
1593 Four Mile Creek Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0

The expropriating authority is:

The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
1593 Four Mile Creek Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0

Phone: 905 468 - 3266

Fax: 905 468 - 2959

Email: Acting Town Clerk Colleen Hutt colleen.hutt@notl.com

This notice first published on the 5th day of August, 2021.



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FEATURED



'Where are we going?'

Penny-Lynn Cookson
Special to The Lake Report

In a time of increasing uncertainty in the world, we may well find ourselves dreaming of tropical paradises or perhaps engaging in spiritual and secular reflections about life similar to the fundamental questions raised by Paul Gauguin in Tahiti in 1897. Gauguin decided to become a professional artist in the 1880s. He joined the Pont-Aven group of Post-Impressionist and Synthetist artists in Brittany, stating his aim for "pure" aesthetic responses as he painted the "primitive" rural and peasant life with heightened colour, sharp contours and flattened space.

He subsequently experienced a brief, chaotic, unhappy time in Arles, in

the south of France, with a manic-depressive Vincent van Gogh, after which he sought a more exotic escape to the French Caribbean island of Martinique.

Determined to find and paint the Arcadian delights of a society unspoiled by the corruption of western civilization, he travelled the immense distance to Tahiti in 1891, leaving France, his Danish wife and five children, and a failed career as a Paris stockbroker behind.

He was too late. Paradise was lost. The arrival of ships and explorers 125 years before, missionaries, exploitation, alcohol, prostitution and the colonial destruction of the Polynesian culture, had replaced the idyllic poetic dream with harsh reality.

Gauguin stayed but was a controversial figure, given his worldly cynicism, swag-



Paul Gauguin, "Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?" 1897, oil on canvas, Museum of Fine Art, Boston. SUPPLIED

ger, predilection for young girls and choice to live with the native people of the island rather than with Europeans.

The enigmatic "Where Are We Going?" became his manifesto and he wrote to Daniel de Montfried who managed his career in Paris, "I believe that this canvas not only surpasses all my preceding ones but that I shall never do anything better, or even like it."

Human, animal and symbolic subjects are arranged across the lush Tahitian landscape of volcanic mountains, verdant foliage, flowers and sea. The com-

position is tied together by the colours of the dream, blue and green.

Read from right to left, three young contemplative women and a sleeping baby represent early life, to the left and behind them, a woman peers under her raised arm at two mysterious, robed walking women, confiding heads together.

In the centre, daily life is indicated by a large-scale hermaphrodite figure picking fruit, a seated little girl in white with white kittens suggesting the purity of childhood, and a nubile young woman who gazes absently into space.

To the left an old woman with knees drawn up, sees her approaching death all too clearly, her hands half cover her anguished face. At her feet is a subdued white bird representing the futility of words.

In the middle, a blue idol with upraised arms represents "the Beyond."

What does this symbolic work with its meditative themes of life, death and poetry mean? That in the end, we are isolated and alone? That the paradise, the Garden of Eden and Eve, could never be possible after the Fall? In Gauguin's words: "So

I have finished a philosophical work on a theme comparable to that of the Gospel."

The huge painting was sent to Paris and exhibited by the famous dealer Ambroise Vollard in 1898 to mixed reviews. Sick with syphilis, conjunctivitis and heart problems, disillusioned and in debt, Gauguin unsuccessfully attempted suicide with arsenic.

He died in 1903 on Hiva Oa in the Marquesa Islands. Unappreciated until after his death, Gauguin is now considered an essential figure to Post-Impressionism, the Symbolist movement and the French avant-garde.

Penny-Lynn Cookson is an art historian who taught at the University of Toronto for 10 years. She was also head of extension services at the Art Gallery of Ontario. Her lectures for the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre on "Landscape and Memory" continue Wednesdays until Aug. 26. Registration is free.

Dr. Brown: COVID virus keeps **outsmarting** the human body's defences

Dr. William Brown
The Lake Report

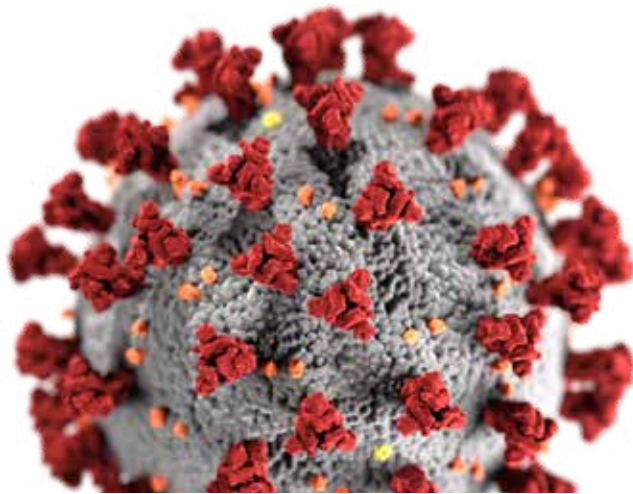
Unlike simple cells such as archaea and bacteria, viruses such as SARS-CoV-2 (which causes COVID) are unable to make copies of themselves without host cells to exploit.

Like most viruses, SARS-CoV-2 is a bare-bones lifeform, comprised of the minimum genetic material (RNA for corona viruses) necessary to code for the small number of proteins typical of most viruses (about 20 for SARS-CoV-2), a glycan sugar coating for SARS-CoV-2, and of course, its own RNA.

That's it, nothing like the complicated machinery of the simple of cells like bacteria.

But as simple as viruses appear to be, they are capable of identifying specific target sites embedded in the membranes of host cells, penetrating them and taking over the metabolic machinery of the cell to churn out copies of the virus by the thousands.

In the case of SARS-



CoV-2, understanding the precise sequence of these events has been a challenge for scientists looking for weaknesses in this virus that could be exploited in the development of future vaccines to keep up with new variants.

We understand the initial steps best. The scattered 10 to 20 spikes that stud the surface of the SARS-CoV-2 virus are made of several highly specific proteins coated with a sugary compound (glycan) to shield the underlying highly antigenic proteins from the immune system. **Score one for the virus.**

Modern technology has made it possible to create high-definition 3-D models of the spikes, identify the precise location of new mutations and figure out whether those mutations, because of their locations, might offer advantages to the virus by increasing the ease with which it can contact and penetrate host cells and hide from the immune system.

SARS-CoV-2 spikes twist and turn in their search for their targets – ACE-2 receptors – which are found most commonly embedded in the membranes of cells that line the respiratory

tract, heart, blood vessels and the gastrointestinal tract – the distribution of which, explains the symptoms and pathology of COVID-19.

Once close to an ACE-2 receptor, the tip of the spike extends to lock onto the receptor and fuse with the cell membrane, after which an enzyme released by the host cell punches a hole in its own membrane to open the door for the virus to enter the cell. **Score 2 for the virus.**

When SARS-CoV-2 is inside the host cell, events become much more complex and risky for the cell. We know the virus is capable of turning off the cell's own alarm system and response to the threat. That's bad enough.

But the virus also stops the production of proteins for the cell's own purposes by blocking the transfer of the cell's protein-encoding mRNA from the nucleus into the cytoplasm. As well, whatever nuclear mRNA makes it into the cytoplasm is blocked from entering the ribosomes for

translation into the cell's proteins by a molecular code-sensitive password at the entrance that allows only mRNA of viral origin into the ribosomes where proteins are made.

In these and other ways, SARS-CoV-2 subverts the cell's metabolism and redirects it to making thousands of copies of the virus's proteins, glycan and, of course, its own RNA. **Score 3, 4 and 5 for the virus.**

The assembly of the viral parts into complete viruses takes place in pathologically dilated spaces within the endoplasmic reticulum in the cell's cytoplasm. The freshly minted viruses are packaged within the cell's Golgi apparatus and lysosomes (the cell's garbage system), which deliver the viruses to the membrane of the cell, where thousands per cell escape through gaps in the cell membrane, into the circulation.

On the way out of the host cell, the spike proteins of the new viruses are activated and ready to go about the business of repeating

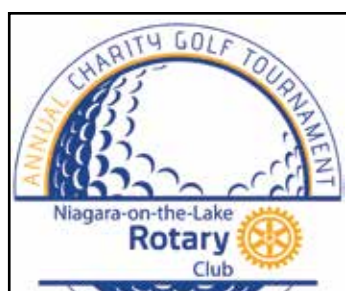
the cycle again and again, each time destroying more and more host cells. **Score 6 and 7 for the virus.**

Believe it or not, that's a very brief summary of the life cycle of the SARS-CoV-2 encounter with host cells. However, bewildering this account may be, it only hints at the complexity of what this supposedly simple virus, with a genome only 30,000 base pairs long, is able to do.

Much remains to be sorted out. It's important work if we're ever going to identify and exploit the virus's genetic and molecular weak points to develop effective antiviral agents and update current vaccines.

For surely there will be other variants well beyond Delta, some of which may require major rejigging of our vaccines and vaccine programs throughout the world. **The virus wins 7-0.**

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



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EXPLORING PHOTOS

WITH NOTL MUSEUM



Election time at Stagecoach

Like it or not, it's election time again. It's hard to believe this image is real as it shows the Conservative and Liberal parties sharing a building for their headquarters during an election. There must have been a wall between the spaces back then we wonder if each side was listening for strategies through it! Today this former gift shop is all one space with only one entrance. You would recognize it as the Stagecoach Restaurant at 45 Queen St. Happy election time everyone!

ARCHITEXT

It's all in the details

Brian Marshall
Columnist



Traditional colours of 1823. SUPPLIED

I'm the first one to admit I'm OCD about realizing the finest expression of a heritage building which, typically, is how it would have appeared when first completed.

I think the goal of any designer is to create a completed presentation in which the "whole is greater than the sum of its parts."

To accomplish this, each individual component of the composition must be weighed and considered for its additive effect on the whole. Further, for the architect working in one of the established architectural styles, this endeavour must conform to defined stylistic parameters.

Let's illustrate this using our project at 240 Centre

St. a raised two-storey cubic form Regency building with a pyramid hip roof.

The designer needed to create a "canvas" that was as close to mathematically perfect as possible; scale, proportion, balance, and so on, had to be precise and correct because one couldn't hide a mistake with ornamentation.

The next step was to establish horizontal integration, which, in this case, was accomplished through the introduction of a limestone watertable, a second-floor belt course and the eave overhang.

To embellish this canvas, in accordance with Regency minimalist parameters, the designer was limited to the treatment of lintels, sills,

windows and door openings, the front stairway, eaves and shutters.

Our designer introduced heavy limestone sills and lintels, which not only contributed to the horizontal lines of the house but also drew attention to the openings.

The eaves were given a light entablature set with delicate C-brackets. The muntin bars in the windows were as slender as possible to maximize the decorative impression created by the wavy glass and the openings framed with a single-dowel moulding.

The front door surround was an elegantly simplified neo-classical form featuring more wavy glass. The flared front stairway narrowed in to

bracket the front entry statement while the first-floor panelled shutters echoed the door itself.

Then came colour to consolidate the presentation. In this period, a two-colour scheme was typical, with door and shutters in a deep, rich colour to contrast with all other painted surfaces. On a high-status house in early 19th-century NOTL that would very often be a white with soft buttery undertones set against the richness of Prussian blue.

Unfortunately, as decades passed, both true heritage white and correct Prussian blue have become commercially unavailable.

To me, today's sterile titanium white and its variants would not bring together the original presentation nor would any modern blue paint have the depth of colour. Luckily, we have an expert colourist (Sarah Cymba of Creek Road Paints) in town and she worked her magic.

After several trials, these historic colours have been recreated and work synergistically to produce the "finest expression" of the house.

It's all in the details!

Looking to the Stars



Full moon in Aquarius helps things make sense

Bill Auchterlonie
Special to The Lake Report

This week we see Uranus turn retrograde, a full moon in Aquarius and the sun leaving Leo and entering Virgo.

Thursday, Aug. 19: Today, Uranus goes retrograde. When outer planets like Uranus go retrograde, their energy is intensified. So, from a few days before, and a few days after Aug. 19, we can expect Uranus serendipities, revelations and illuminating insights. Uranus will make us more aware of the subtle energies and information that surround us all the time, but are usually more difficult to access.

When we tap into Uranus' energies, when we align ourselves with Uranus, we are on the same frequency as the universe, and gain incredible insight and clarity. Happy 52nd Birthday to Matthew Perry, aka Chandler Bing on "Friends" and, more recently, as Oscar Madison on "The Odd Couple."

Friday, Aug. 20: The moon is in Aquarius in the same place in the sky as Saturn. This is one of the most stressful days of the year. Emotionally we want to be cool, calm and collected. But what we are presented with is too demanding for that. Confidence and honesty are not an easy combo, but together they are the best. Today, Led Zeppelin lyricist and lead singer Robert Plant celebrates birthday #73.

Saturday, Aug. 21: A powerfully beautiful Venus in Libra brings us a clear picture of why you are here and why you care to know it. British-born actor Kim Cattrall, who was raised in Canada, is best known for portraying Samantha Jones in the hit TV show "Sex and the City." Today she turns 65.

Sunday, Aug. 22: There are two very important events today: a full moon and the sun

leaving Leo to enter Aquarius. Last month we had a full moon in early Aquarius, and this time we have one in the last degree of Aquarius. This is a highly auspicious full moon because it is conjunct with Jupiter. Every time we have two lunations in the same sign (and this doesn't happen too often) the universe gives us the chance to make things right.

If the new moon in Leo early this month came with a problem, the full moon in Aquarius brings a solution. We will finally be able to connect the dots. Things start to make sense.

Hours later, the sun leaves Leo and enters Virgo. Sometimes we are crystal clear about what we want, but we don't know what exactly we need to do. And that's exactly why we have Virgo, which will diligently find manageable tasks and show us what we need to do. The late writer Dorothy Parker was born Aug. 22, 1897. Her most famous quote is: "Men seldom make passes at girls who wear glasses."

Monday, Aug. 23: Even though Venus is in perfect harmony with Saturn today, there is likely still mostly friction in relationships to come from it. That's how tough a taskmaster Saturn is. Today would be the 42nd birthday of 16-time NBA all-star Kobe Bryant.

Tuesday, Aug. 24: As the moon moves into impulsive Aries, Mercury is opposed by Neptune, causing confusion in our minds. A good idea is to put the brakes on impulsiveness. The Iron Man of baseball, Cal Ripken Jr., turns 61 today.

Wednesday, Aug. 25: The moon in Aries is opposite Venus in her home sign of Libra. Be on guard for blurting out something that is instantly regrettable. It's birthday #63 for Hollywood director Tim Burton.

Next week, Mercury leaves Virgo and enters Libra.

Astrology is a form of entertainment, not a science.



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Obituary

John Rozitis



ROZITIS, John Alfreds -1957-2021 –
It is with sadness we share the sudden passing of John Rozitis, at home on Aug. 8, 2021. Born on June 26, 1957, John was the son of the late Alfreds and Mary Rozitis and is predeceased by his niece Eva. John will be missed by his brother Peter, sister Daina, nieces Kathryn, Erin (Mike), Lidija (Thomas), nephew Jonathan, and grand nieces and nephew Adelaide, Finnegan, Celeste and Isla. The family wishes to thank all of the neighbours, local growers and the farm workers for their support and kindness at this time. John was a gentle soul and lifelong peach grower in Niagara-on-the-Lake. He continued to operate the farm established by his parents

in 1964. Fruit growing was not only a way of life, but his passion. John also served many years as a volunteer firefighter with the Virgil fire department. He was often found with his beloved German Shepherd by his side. Visitation took place on Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021 from 9 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. at Morse & Son Funeral Home, 5917 Main St., Niagara Falls. A graveside service followed at Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery at 11 a.m. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



NOTL Museum **silent movie** nights

Staff
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum is preparing to host two silent movie nights with a pay-what-you-can donation charge for attendance.

The first show is on Aug. 19 and will feature the Charlie Chaplin classic “City Lights,” about a tramp who tries to raise money for a blind flower girl with the aid of a wealthy eccentric.

“It’s fun for the family or grandparents bringing their grandkids. Anyone can come and enjoy it in the museum courtyard,” managing

director Sarah Kaufman said. The second film on Aug. 26 will be Buster Keaton’s “The Cameraman.”

The museum has done movie nights in the past but had to forego such events due to COVID-19 last year.

“They’re usually something history-related or older films. In the past we did documentaries. There’s usually no set theme,” Kaufman said.

“But we went with silent films this year. I think a lot of people find that interesting and, of course, Charlie Chaplin is the first one and he’s always very popular.”

The films will be

screened in the museum’s new community courtyard, which will allow for social distancing.

“We’ll make sure there’s COVID protocols in place and everyone’s distanced between each other. If we get a really big group we might have to move it outside the courtyard,” she said.

People need to bring their own chairs and snacks. The screenings will start around dusk.

Prospective audience members should arrive just before sundown if they want to get good seats, Kaufman said.

Niagara Nursery School partners with NOTL Valu-marts for **donation drive**

Staff
The Lake Report

Shopping at one of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Valu-marts this week or next? Now you can make a \$2 donation to Niagara Nursery School at the same time.

From now to Aug. 28, customers can donate to

help with the school’s expansion at both Phil’s Valu-mart in Virgil and Hendriks Valu-mart in Old Town.

“We are so excited and grateful for this opportunity,” said the school’s executive director, Candice Penny.

“To date we have raised \$75,000 out of our

\$100,000 goal and hope that this fundraising initiative will get us closer to our goal as we prepare to open our doors to 69 children in September.”

The expansion project will be completed later in August, opening up 39 child care spaces, ranging from infant to pre-school.

Growing Together

How to keep your annuals blooming through the fall



Joanne Young
Special to The Lake Report

Well, it has been another hot summer and we are at that point in August when our annual plants, whether they are in containers or are in the ground, start to peter out and just look tired.

We still have a good two months to go before frost, so there are things that you can be doing now to bring your flowers back to life.

The best way to keep your annuals blooming all summer and into early fall is by deadheading. Simply put, deadheading is the removal of the spent flower.

Why is this important? Let me share two bits of science with you that might make this point clearer.

The first point is that when we plant annuals in our gardens or containers our goal is to get a pretty mix of colourful flowers, but the goal of the plants is much different. The plant’s goal is to produce seed so that it can reproduce itself. To the plant, the flowers are just the means of producing seed.

The second piece of science is that plants have a given amount of energy within them. Where they spend their energy depends on what stage of growth it is in.

As it is starting to grow in the spring, the energy is spent on the leaves. As the plant begins to set flower buds and blooms, it spends its energy on forming the flowers. Once the flower has finished, the plant’s energy goes to producing the seeds.

When you put these two pieces of information together, it explains the benefits of deadheading the spent flowers. By removing the flowers that have finished, you are letting the plant know that it has not reached its goal of produc-



Proper deadheading. JOANNE YOUNG PHOTO

ing seed, which signals to the plant that it still needs to produce more flowers so that it can produce some seeds.

Instead of the plant putting its energy into the seed head it now can put its energy into producing new growth and new growth leads to the production of new flower buds – all of which will help to keep your annuals blooming into the fall.

When removing the spent flowers, make sure that you just don’t cut off right below the flower itself, but follow the flower stalk to where it meets its first leaf buds. Cut there. That is where the new growth (and new flowers) will be produced.

Another thing you can do to keep your annuals looking good right through the summer is cutting back some of the foliage of plants that are getting too leggy looking.

This is especially true with your trailing plants such as lobelia, million bells, verbena and bacopa. If the plants are starting to look stringy, cut back the foliage as much as halfway. This will stimulate new growth that in turn will produce new flowers, giving your plantings new life.

A third way of keeping your annuals blooming throughout the summer is by fertilizing. The annuals are heavy feeders, meaning they are constantly taking a lot of nutrients from the soil and require those nutrients to be replenished.

Whether you are using an organic fertilizer or one that is chemical-based, make sure you are using one that is slightly higher in phosphorus (the middle number).

Phosphorus helps to promote flowering. Organic fertilizers are usually granular and can be sprinkled on the soil and watered in. Organic fertilizers are slow acting but longer lasting and therefore do not have to be applied as often.

Chemical-based fertilizers are usually dissolved in water and watered around the plants. They act quicker but are shorter lasting and need to be applied more frequently. Make sure you always water before applying fertilizer, otherwise it may burn the plants.

By following these simple steps, you will be able to enjoy your annual flowers throughout the summer..

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



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