



Council rejects all nine proposals for former hospital site | Page 5

ELECTION 2022

13 running for 8 seats on NOTL council

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

They're off and running. A few last-minute hopefuls were able to sign their registration papers before nominations for candidates in the Oct. 24 municipal election closed last Friday.

The final council candidate to submit nomination documents was Katherine Reid of Queenston, who became the 13th person running for one of eight seats.

In the marquee race, incumbent Lord Mayor Betty Disero is facing two challengers: regional Coun. Gary Zalepa and retired business-

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Pumphouse kits bring art to long-term care residents

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Seniors are tuning into their artistic sides at Pleasant Manor and Upper Canada Lodge with pre-made art kits.

The kits are put together by the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre and delivered monthly to both facilities. The program is part of the Pumphouse's Continuing Arts Recollective Experi-

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NOTLers strike gold



Town's two athletes both reached top of the podium at Summer Games



Rower Kai Bartel and wrestler Zubin Gatta brought home Summer Games gold medals. Gatta also won a bronze. RICHARD HARLEY

Molly Bowron
The Lake Report

In the calm before the storm, water laps softly against the sides of seven carbon fibre racing shells as they line up bow ball to bow ball.

With starting positions set, the rowers await the sound of

the horn to kick off their quest for a gold medal.

In rowing, the men's and women's 8 races are marquee events, similar to the 100 metres in track – The Big One.

But just before the gruelling intensity of the race kicks in, as he always does, Kai Bartel shares a wink and a smile with

his opponents.

On cue, muscles surging, he lunges ahead as the Team Ontario men's 8 boat breaks free of the crowd.

Six minutes and 2,000 metres later, the Niagara-on-the-Lake native and his teammates skim across the finish line of the Royal Henley race course.

They're 42/100ths of a second ahead of British Columbia, a blink of an eye – and 14 seconds, an eternity at this level, in front of the bronze medalists from Alberta.

Golden!

Mission accomplished.

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All's well after calm, windless Lake Ontario delays sailing finale

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

It took a few extra hours on Sunday but Canada Summer Games organizers managed to corral enough wind on Lake Ontario to finally finish off the sailing competition.

Sailors were beached for part of Saturday as low winds on the lake played havoc with the Games' racing schedule for the third time in four days.

An unusually calm lake limited the number of races that could be completed on Wednesday and Friday as well.

The wind was up on Thursday and a full day of racing was completed.

Games organizers had reserved Sunday as a "weather day," in case of problems with Mother Nature and they were forced to move four Saturday races – the men's and women's double-hander 29er class – to the last day of the Games.

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Summer Games athletes on the lake fly their provincial sails as they race. JIM SCHACHT

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Left: After a successful mission, NOTL resident John Unger was forced to jump from his badly damaged Halifax bomber but didn't survive. His parachute was never deployed. LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA Right: A Halifax bomber similar to the one John Unger flew. IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM



Councillors met in-person this week for the first time since March 2020, when COVID-19 closed the world. EVAN LOREE

THE MONUMENTS MEN

John Unger bailed out but his parachute never opened

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

Ron Dale
Special to The Lake Report

During the Second World War, Allied air forces based in England flew almost continuous raids to bomb German transportation hubs, factories and cities, weather permitting.

The Royal Air Force and Royal Canadian Air Force tended to bomb at night from lower altitudes while the U.S bombed during the day from higher up.

The Germans had armed key points guarding factories, cities, ports and other important positions with a great number of anti-aircraft guns that could fire a hail-storm of exploding shells, known as "flak," at the waves of Allied bombers.

In addition to flak, the Germans flew effective fighter aircraft, fast, nimble,

and very well-armed.

While the bombers had an array of machine-guns and cannons to defend against enemy fighters, their planes' superior speed and manoeuvrability gave them an advantage.

The Germans flew squadrons of "night fighters," aircraft specifically equipped to track and shoot down bombers at night.

When a bomber was damaged by flak or by being shot up by an enemy fighter, it was often still in good enough shape to return to England, even with an engine or two destroyed.

If the plane had been more seriously damaged, however, the pilot could order the crew to "bail out," using their parachutes.

Survivors were usually captured by the enemy and incarcerated as prisoners of war. Some were injured while exiting the plane, knocked unconscious and unable to pull the ripcord to open the parachute. This may be what happened to John Unger.

Unger was born in Russia on June 21, 1921, oldest of the nine children of Peter and Elizabeth Unger.

In 1925, the family left Russia to take up land in Saskatchewan. Peter died in 1937 and Elizabeth brought the family to Niagara-on-

the-Lake, renting a house on Paffard Street.

On Sept. 30, 1942, John Unger travelled to Hamilton and enlisted in the RCAF. He received initial training in Toronto before being sent to Calgary for several months to learn how to operate the "wireless" communications equipment on aircraft.

After receiving certification, he was promoted to sergeant and then sent to an Air Gunnery School in Jarvis, Ont., completing that course on Sept. 20, 1943.

He was commissioned as a pilot officer (wireless/air gunner) and was sent first to Halifax and then to New York to embark. He arrived in England on Oct. 16, 1943.

For the next eight months Unger received additional training as a bomber air crew member before finally being assigned to an active unit, 420 Squadron, RCAF.

His squadron leader, Wing Commander McKenna, explained in a letter to John's mother that "he carried out numerous attacks from this country to various targets. As a wireless operator he proved his skill and determination to press home his attack. His coolness under fire and ever cheerful manner made him a popular member of the squadron..."

John's Halifax bomber,

MZ 645, took off at dusk on July 28, 1944, to bomb targets in Hamburg, part of a large force of bombers.

The plane made a successful run but was attacked by a German night fighter afterward. Their plane heavily damaged, some of the crew members were able to bail out of the stricken aircraft.

The pilot and three other crew members didn't make it out in time and were found in the wreckage of the plane at Estorp, Germany.

Three crew members were able to parachute to safety but were taken prisoner by the Germans. Unger was not numbered among the dead found in the crash or the crew captured after their parachute descents.

His body was found in Spreckens, several miles from the crash site on Aug. 3, and buried nearby. In 1946, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission exhumed Unger's body for reburial in the Becklingen War Cemetery in Germany.

It was noted that his body was crushed but still clad in an RCAF tunic with his identity disc intact. He had been buried with a "parachute – (not opened)."

Unger is commemorated on the memorial clock tower cenotaph on Queen Street.

Niagara Region orders 'significant' changes to NOTL's official plan

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake adopted its new official plan almost three years ago but now the Region of Niagara is demanding "significant" changes before approving it.

Any municipal plan has to be integrated with the region's and province's wider vision, which NOTL officials knew.

They had hoped there would only be minor tweaks demanded by the region.

But a planning department report to council on Monday, Aug. 22, says the changes coming to the official plan could be extensive after the region approved its own new official plan in June.

The town must update its plan in multiple areas, including growth management, housing, agriculture, environment and transportation.

"It seems like we are definitely the low end of the totem pole when it comes to anything to do with planning," said Coun. Gary Burroughs.

"It seems like the region has a great deal to say about our community," he added.

The town's plan dealt with population growth until 2041, but that changed after

the province amended its own growth plan.

The changes extended Ontario's projections for employment and population growth for the Golden Horseshoe area to 2051.

The town's revised plan will have to accommodate that change.

That could have substantial impact on the Glendale neighbourhood, which the region sees as a key area for population growth, the staff report said.

The region also increased the target density for NOTL to 25 per cent from 15 per cent.

"Did anybody ask us?" said Burroughs.

Kirsten McCauley, the town's director of community and development services, said the secondary draft of the official plan is still in its early stages and council can expect to see additional plans on transportation, infrastructure and finances in the future.

While the province has received the town's official plan, it also has not given it final approval.

The "significant" alterations to the plan need to account for the province's population projections and may be substantial enough to warrant an open house and public meeting, McCauley said in her report to council.

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Parks Canada **doesn't** have resources to deal with Niagara Shores' erosion, council told

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara Shores Park is slowly eroding but Parks Canada doesn't have the resources to deal with it now, council was told Monday night.

"There has been a lot of erosion at Niagara Shores Park, so safety of patrons using that is top priority for the (federal) government," town parks and recreation manager Kevin Turcotte said.

In the past, Parks Canada has emphasized that safety is more of a concern than the park's natural erosion.

The well-trod destination just west of Old Town was the subject of a staff report to council.

"They don't have money to protect the shoreline, which is being gouged away, metre by metre every year," said Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

"Falling into the Lake," a 2019 video documentary and accompanying special investigation by The Lake Report, delved into the ongoing erosion problems at the park.



A photo of the erosion at Niagara Shores Park taken in July 2019. Since then most of the trees at the edge of the row have fallen into the lake. RENE BERTSCHI **Watch The Lake Report's** documentary on erosion and see past coverage at www.niagarashores.com.

The town's report contains the results of an opinion survey on the effectiveness of NOTL's new parks bylaw.

According to the report, some survey participants feel that Niagara Shores Park should be reopened to more visitors and vehicles.

Turcotte said staff spoke to Parks Canada, but did not receive an exact date for the reopening.

When pressed on the delay, Turcotte said there

are limited resources available to address the eroding shorelines.

Coun. Clare Cameron asked if Parks Canada is aware the park is still in use and Turcotte said the federal agency is.

Previous reports by The Lake Report explain that the park is open to walkers but is closed to drivers who often park too close to the eroding bluffs.

The staff report also highlighted some concerns

about the town's community outreach.

The survey discussed in the report had only 73 responses, well below the town's average of 111.

Cameron said the wording of the survey questions may have been an issue.

"I love words. These questions had a ton of words," she said.

"Any creative ideas to expand participation in a survey like this would be wonderful," she added.

NOTL-raised woman dies in N.Y. while boating

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A Hamilton paramedic who was raised in Niagara-on-the-Lake died Saturday after being found floating in Lake Ontario, off Wilson, N.Y., shortly after setting out on a personal watercraft.

Ria VanNoort, 33, was a paramedic for both the City of Hamilton and Haldimand County Emergency Services.

Her parents Sharon and Robert VanNoort are well-known in Virgil, where they operate a flower shop.

Ria VanNoort leaves a six-year-old daughter, Mayla, and her companion Kyle Biloski, with whom she resided in Canfield, Ont.

She was attending a party at a home in Wilson, east of Youngstown, when she apparently fell from the personal watercraft, the



Ria VanNoort with her daughter Mayla. SUPPLIED

Niagara County Sheriff's Office said in a statement.

Sheriffs received a 911 call just after 6 p.m. on Saturday.

VanNoort was operating the watercraft offshore. Sometime after, partygoers noticed her floating in the water nearby, investigators said.

People at the party loaded

her onto another boat and brought her to shore.

After deputies and members of the Wilson and South Wilson volunteer fire departments provided aid to VanNoort, she was taken to Eastern Niagara Lockport Hospital, where she was pronounced deceased, sheriffs said.

The cause of death and

details surrounding the incident are still unclear.

Supt. David Thompson of Hamilton Paramedic Services said, "First and foremost, we send our condolences to Ria's family, friends and loved ones that are coming together to mourn."

She was a beacon of positivity and happiness, he said.

"She always just wanted to give back and help out. Speaking with her, she loved fundraising and loved her dogs," Thompson said.

"Her daughter was obviously the most important part of her life," he added.

A GoFundMe has been set up by John Las to help the family. The majority of the money will go into an account for Mayla's future.

The Niagara County Sheriff's criminal investigation bureau said it is continuing its investigation of the incident.

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LABOUR DAY 2022: SOLIDARITY IS THE WAY FORWARD

The past two and a half years have been some of the most challenging times Canadians have faced in a generation and this pandemic has impacted the most vulnerable among us in more ways than we know. The pandemic also showed us how resilient we can be when we all stand together. It's been a tough time but as a nation we've proven that we're ready to work together for the common good for all. We must hold onto that solidarity and continue to stand united as we move forward with an ambitious plan for recovery.

Now, here in the Niagara Region we are in the midst of an affordability crisis. We are all worried about the increasing cost of housing, food, medication and transportation.

As we continue to recover from the pandemic and the economic turmoil it has and is causing, many workers are still just scraping by, struggling to find good jobs. Some have left the job market entirely and this is why we continue to call for a pandemic recovery that is focused on replacing lost jobs with better ones.

Health care workers in the Niagara Region and across Canada have been sounding the alarm on the state of care in Canada for decades. Health care work is vital, but it is often unstable, undervalued and underpaid. Health care services were brought to a breaking point under the strain of the pandemic. Our economy relies heavily on paid and unpaid Health care work, with the burden of Health care often falling to women. In order to achieve full and equal labour-market participation for all, Canada needs a cohesive plan for providing affordable, quality, public childcare, as well as care for the elderly and people living with disabilities. We need a care strategy, backed by significant investment to ensure that Canadians have the world-class care services we all deserve.

THIS LABOUR DAY, LET'S ORGANIZE FOR A BETTER CANADA FOR ALL WORKERS.



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ELECTION '22

13 running for 8 council seats

Continued from Front Page

man Vaughn Goettler, who filed his nomination papers last Wednesday.

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

Couns. Norm Arsenault, Clare Cameron and John Wiens opted to not run again.

They 13 people running for council are:

Tim Balasiuk: He is a lifelong NOTL resident who owns Paddle Niagara, a company that hosts kids camps, teaches water safety and offers services for locals and tourists.

Allan Bisback: He just completed his first term on council, where one of his responsibilities has been overseeing the town's budget process.

Gary Burroughs: A former lord mayor and regional representative, he has been active in NOTL politics for many years.

Adriana Cater (Vizzari): A St. Davids resident who calls herself a "passionate community builder," she studied business administration and human resources management.

Wendy Cheropita: A one-term councillor seeking re-election, she was one of the driving forces behind the NOTL Ambassadors program.

Alistair Harlond: A volunteer firefighter in NOTL, he runs an automotive repair service and is a former Shaw Festival performer.

Maria Mavridis: A Queen Street entrepreneur and restaurateur, she has sat on the boards of several community and non-profit organizations.

John McCallum: A first-time candidate in NOTL, he had an international career in finance and accounting spanning North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Richard Mell: He is co-owner of Grape Escape Winery Tours in Virgil and a realtor in NOTL. A resident of St. Davids, he has been a member of the town's diversity, equality and inclusion committee.



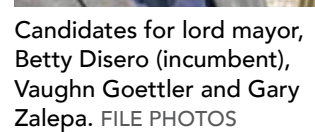
Andrea Kaiser: A former town councillor who has long been active in Niagara politics, including as a federal Liberal candidate, she has worked in the wine industry for many years and now is proprietor of a winery.



Paolo Miele: A former town councillor defeated in 2018, he operates a breakfast restaurant near Glendale and has been an outspoken political voice on social media.



William Roberts: Twice elected as a provincial New Democrat in Alberta in the 1980s, he has been an ordained Anglican minister since 1979. He also was a member of the town's environmental committee.



Barbara Worthy: Self-described as the only non-political person in the race, she is an independent creative arts producer, actress, writer and former CBC Radio producer. She also is the NOTL Museum's community engagement co-ordinator.

Sandra O'Connor: She was appointed to council last year after Stuart McCormack quit in 2020. A former Green party candidate, she has spoken out on environmental tourism-related issues.

Katherine Reid: Now a Queenston resident, she also has lived in Old Town, and has worked in the Niagara wine industry since 1981.

Nick Ruller: He was NOTL's fire chief until February of this year when he resigned to become a platoon chief with Brampton's fire service.

Erwin Wiens: One of the more outspoken members of council, he is a grape farmer and former police officer.

Meanwhile, three new candidates entered the regional council race in the final days before the deadline.

With five capable, experienced people fighting for NOTL's one regional seat, this could turn out to be one of the toughest races of the campaign.

The regional candidates are:

Pat Darte: A former lord mayor, defeated in 2018, he has a long career of public service including helping establish the Niagara Community Foundation and the Family and Children's Services Foundation.

The race for the four NOTL-St. Catharines seats on the District School Board of Niagara had one late addition with Rhona Lindo-Kelly signing up.

Christine Lewis withdrew her nomination on Aug. 18, leaving incumbents Kate Baggott, Alex Bradnam, Lora Campbell and Jonathan Fast in the race along with other challengers Donald MacDougall and Kris Vreck.

And three candidates – Natalia Benoit, Larry Huibers and Jolanta Pawlak – are running for the two NOTL-St. Catharines seats on the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Only Melinda Chartrand registered for the lone position on the French school board, the Conseil Scolaire Catholique MonAvenir, so she will be declared the winner by acclamation for the second consecutive election.

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

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

With files from Evan Loree.



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Town council has rejected nine proposals for the old hospital site in Old Town Niagara-on-the-Lake. The proposals were part of a confidential process, so no information about the plans is yet available to the public. FILE/JESSICA MAXWELL

Council rejects all proposals for old hospital

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

It's back to the drawing board for future plans for Niagara-on-the-Lake's old hospital site.

Nine companies responded to the town's request for ideas about how to redevelop the old hospital – but council rejected all the proposals as unsuitable and cancelled the process, a report released Monday says.

The town hired a fairness monitor in April 2021 to help collect expressions of interest on what to do with the valuable property at 176 Wellington St. in Old Town.

The job of the fairness adviser, Optimus SBR Inc., was to ensure the integrity of the process.

After launching the search and examining the submissions, "council determined that none of the proposals adequately satisfied all the strategic objectives of the town," Greg Dadd, principal of Optimus, said in a report to council dated July 12.

The submissions were excellent but the old hospital could not accommodate every one of them, Lord Mayor Betty Disero said in an interview.

As well, the town needed to assess alternative locations for the proposed projects compiled by Dadd because "the hospital alone can't do it," the mayor said.

The project proposals varied widely, from housing plans and seniors facility, to a motel and parking for the public, she said.

"We probably need most of them, but they all can't go on the same spot," Disero said.

With council's rejection of all the ideas and owing to "the substantive change in the economic environment due to COVID-19 since the request for expressions of interest was issued," council decided not to proceed detailed proposals and cancelled the process, Dadd said.

The companies that submitted proposals were identified as: the Arts, Culture and Education Hub, Fortis Construction Group Inc., Fram Building Group Ltd., Idrakoth Limited, Lais Hotel Properties, Manor Village Life Centres Inc., Niagara-on-the-Lake Wellness Centre Inc., Wellness Suites

Condominiums and White Owl Properties Ltd.

At Monday's committee of the whole meeting, Coun. Gary Burroughs wanted to know what the next steps would be for the old hospital.

Chief administrator Marnie Cluckie said staff would return to council, likely in January after the fall election, "to workshop what council would like to see."

"From that information we would be in a position to go out for a request for proposal," she added.

The Lake Report's multi-part "Future Vision" series examined ideas from the community regarding how to repurpose the old hospital site. Search "future vision" on www.niagaranow.com.

Fewer short-term rental problems, town report says

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Getting short-term rental operators to comply with Niagara-on-the-Lake's licensing and bylaw requirements is continuing to show positive progress, a town staff report says.

"I think we're making some pretty good strides," Lord Mayor Betty Disero said in an interview.

The town issued just two bylaw infractions and

conducted 15 investigations into short-term rental infractions in June, according to the report presented to councillors Monday night.

There were no short-term rental infractions and two investigations in July, the report said. Short-term rental infractions are expected to average between zero and 10 every month.

Educating violators is the first option for the town's enforcement officers. When that fails, substantial fines can be levied.

Disero said the town gives licence owners all the information they need to stay in compliance.

Almost a year ago, in September 2021, the town rolled out a program with Granicus Host Compliance to monitor short-term rentals alongside the administrative monetary penalty system to better fine individuals for breaking town bylaws.

As well, 1,883 parking tickets were issued in June and 2,043 in July, accord-


ing to the bylaw enforcement reports for those months.

Four property standards investigations took place in June and another 23 were conducted in July.

The town issued 18 administrative penalty tickets in June and another nine in July.

Overall, the town has issued 52 such tickets so far this year, 12 of which have been for short-term rental infractions and 12 for tree bylaw violations.

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

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 77
Region active cases: 1,034
Region deaths: 598
Region total cases: 44,649

**Aug. 24 data per Niagara Region Public Health. Public health warns that "Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, limited availability of testing, and changes to case and contact management practices, case counts shown (above) are an underestimate of the true number of individuals in Niagara with COVID-19. Data should be interpreted with caution." Case data for municipalities is also now being interpreted in 28-day cycles.*



Contributed by Patty Garriock
 "Extend the circle of "us" to include as much of the world as possible." - Rick Hanson

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Spotted on a thistle



An American goldfinch on a bull thistle. JANICE WHITE

Editorials

Substance, please, not just platitudes

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

Exactly 60 days from today, we should know who will be the next lord mayor and councillors for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

That is a lonnngng campaign. Is anyone paying attention yet? Other than the candidates and their most ardent supporters and volunteers, probably not many.

There's an old saying about fall elections – no one pays them any mind until after Labour Day.

And while municipal campaigns are really the most fundamental, grass-roots and closest-to-the-people forms of democracy that we have, they are also the elections that people pay the least attention to.

That is, until they have a noisy short-term rental next door or a giant pothole on their road or the streetlights don't work or ...

All politics are local, but municipal politics are really local, and too often lo-cal.

As the trusted, independent media voice in our community, The Lake Report plans to cover the election campaign closely, bringing you news as it happens and occasionally commenting on the proceedings as necessary.

However, we're going to do things a little differently than others might.

In old-school small-town media, too often journalists allow the candidates to dictate the news and political agenda.

And it has long been the practice, especially in smaller centres, to publish glowing pre-election stories about each candidate, all the fine things they stand for and maybe the things they will do if elected.

We don't apologize for refusing to do that. Self-aggrandizing, self-serving

"puff" pieces with little or no critical assessment are nothing more than advertising. They're not news nor are they good journalism.

However, on Oct. 13, we will give candidates a unique advertising opportunity when we publish a special Election 2022 section, full of paid ads touting their bona fides, their political CVs and their platforms.

We're not knocking advertising; we love it. It is the lifeblood of this newspaper, allowing us to bring you quality journalism each Thursday.

As in everything else we do, we will strive to meet the expectations our readers have set for us.

So, here's our plan and our promise. When candidates make news of substance by something they say or do, or when an issue erupts during the campaign, we will endeavour to tell you about it.

At candidate meetings and forums, when legitimate, real news is made, we will report on it. We will ask questions and expect answers, because that is what you have told us you expect.

It's not rocket science. When a politico launches their campaign, opens a campaign office or simply makes an appearance in the community, we might be on hand to ask them questions and listen, but we won't simply document some non-event just because a mayoral or council candidate showed up.

Our readers deserve better. Now, some politicians will not like this approach and that's unfortunate.

We simply are asking them for substance, not platitudes; solutions, not abstract generalities; and passion but not performance.

editor@niagaranow.com

A sporting triumph

But both our competitors brought home gold. We're not sure if any other municipality can top that.

Congratulations to Zubin Gatta, who took gold – and bronze – in wrestling. His bronze came a few hours after he "popped out" an elbow in a semifinal loss to the eventual gold medalist.

Anyone who has had a dislocation knows just how

painful that can be and to continue competing is testament to how dedicated this teenager is.

And congrats to rower Kai Bartel, who overcame just missing the podium in men's pair and not long afterward helped power the men's 8 to a golden victory.

Two incredible performances by two fine young athletes.

Kudos also to all the NOTLers who volunteered at the tennis and sailing venues – and to the members of both clubs for the work they put in and the support they provided the athletes.

The Summer Games showcased some future stars and we're proud that NOTL was an important part of it. editor@niagaranow.com

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Make **East-West Line** preferred route to Old Town

Dear editor:

I don't understand how and why people think that suggesting Charlotte Street as a preferred route into Old Town is the best solution to a growing traffic problem.

The current route that threads through Niagara and Rye streets doesn't make sense.

Why would it make better sense to reroute it through another residential street that has already become a speedway at the best of times.

Yes, it's wide, there are no four-way stops or speed bumps, but the entire length of Charlotte Street is lined with homes.



It also leads to several pathways and directly into the Commons.

There are families, retirees, bed and breakfasts, and generally a lot of bicycle and foot traffic that would be affected very negatively if it were the designated route.

Why has nobody suggested that East and West Line just be the favoured route?

It is the safest and most

direct path into Old Town. (In reality, the most direct would actually be to follow Hwy. 55 straight down to Queen Street, but for some reason no one seems to address this.)

On East and West Line, there are no pedestrians, there are no four-way stops and it's very easy to navigate.

With the current proposal for the Rand Estate having

an entrance at the lower end of Charlotte Street near Paffard, adding more cars and traffic, it just makes no sense for Charlotte to be the preferred route to Old Town.

While we're on the topic, why aren't the side streets around Queen Street four-way stops at every intersection? Prideaux, Gate, etc. should all be four-way stops.

So many drivers just fly through these intersections near the golf course and it's an accident just waiting to happen.

Can we get a little more common sense in council for this next election?

Michael Alberstat
NOTL



Thank you for helping Shred-it raise **\$4,060**

Dear editor:

We have our grand total for NOTL Palliative Care's Shred-it fundraiser on Aug. 13: an incredible \$4,060.

Thank you to everyone who came out to Shred-it to lend their hands, legs, muscles, voices and smiles. We are so grateful to all. Penny Digweed and Trish Anthony, you made it look so easy.

The day was beautiful for a change, with no humidity, a nice breeze and not too hot. As a team I believe we had a lot of fun.

A special thanks to Trish and her husband who kindly let us break all of the boxes

up and dispose of them in their dumpster.

Thank you to Meridian Credit Union, which sponsored our event again this year. There wouldn't be a Shred-it fundraiser without Meridian's support.

Lastly, our Shred-it team of Chris and Steve, and the Shred-it company for the discounted rate we receive year after year.

The biggest thanks go out to the people of Niagara-on-the-Lake people, who save their confidential papers for us every year.

You help us to help others.

Bonnie Bagnulo
Executive director
NOTL Palliative Care

Yes, NOTL really needs to adopt a **ward system**

Dear editor:

Moving from the present "at large" system of electing our town council to a new ward System as proposed in your editorial, ("A new NOTL, wards and all," Aug. 18) is long overdue.

On this matter, NOTL is behind the curve compared to other expanding localities across Canada.

Accordingly, our upcoming municipal council candidates should be asked to declare and express publicly their positions on adopting a ward system.

It should be a priority question at any all-candidates meetings. Additionally all mayoral candidates, who would continue to be elected under the at large system, should voice their opinion.

This change appears to be well-received and would most likely gain the sup-

port of the community as a whole.

Having wards would address the many issues concerning residents from outside Old Town – those in St. Davids, Queenston, Glendale and Virgil – who feel underrepresented and disenfranchised by the way council is currently elected.

They are fed up with the council narrative always pandering to the Old Town, heritage district and tourism crowd at the exclusion of tackling critical concerns in their immediate neighbourhoods.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero, at a previous council meeting, was incensed and vigorously opposed these views. However, as they say in politics, "Perception is everything," and her comments changed nothing.

Under the current system, the town is a single district

in which all eligible voters vote on the same list of council candidates including the mayor.

Wards divide the town into smaller geographic areas, generally of equal population.

The residents in the ward vote for their council member or members, who reside in the ward and are more attuned and in concert with the community's priorities.

This is similar to the electoral system in which each MPP represents a specific riding.

In his opinion piece, "Glendale's long-term needs are much different than Old Town's," in the same edition, author Steve Hardaker made some excellent points. Truer words were never spoken – and so too are the other communities' needs that make up NOTL.

A four-ward system

would put most probably two council members in each ward acting in the best interests of the community as a whole, and eliminate the at large voting numbers that heretofore have been skewed in favour of the Old Town cabal, a term used recently by Mayor Disero.

Purportedly 41 per cent of all NOTL votes are cast in the Old Town.

So, new residents, get out and vote. Elect officials who will represent their constituents, not march to their own drummer as we often observed with the current council (plus their aversion to transparency).

Advocate for this new and timely change in our voting structure, be proactive and be prepared to address our challenging population growth needs.

Samuel Young
NOTL

Superb job by tennis and sailing clubs hosting Summer Games

Dear editor:

I want to congratulate both the NOTL Tennis Club and NOTL Sailing Club for their superb efforts to host the Canada Summer Games.

I'm told the two venues were considered the very best for this year's games.

Despite the issues surrounding the Niagara Summer Games and the dysfunction of their organizing committee and board, it would appear NOTL rose to the occasion.

I'm very happy for the

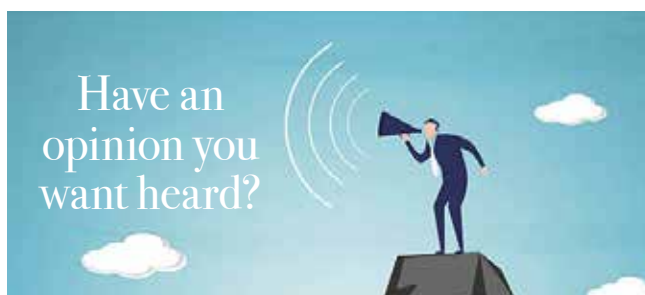
participants and their families who were able to compete so successfully.

Most of the participants will not compete above this level again and very few will make an Olympic team in the future.

Both the federal and provincial governments provided millions of dollars for the Games to happen. I'm hoping as a result there will be some type of long-term legacy for Niagara.

Well done athletes.

Glenn Young
NOTL



Have an opinion you want heard?

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

Town should **settle** suit over B&B licence

Dear editor:

Now that the integrity commissioner has determined the facts do not support a complaint that Lord Mayor Betty Disero attempted to interfere with how the complaint filed by her husband was handled by town staff, we can move on to the real issue of the denial of the renewal of the B&B licence of the couple who are suing the town over

that denial.

According to your Aug. 18 report, ("Integrity report vindicates mayor of allegations over husband's bylaw complaint,") the town withheld the renewal of Colin Telfer and Jennifer Elliott's B&B licence "on the grounds that they had an open bylaw investigation on their property" and further that "according to the report, it is common practice

for the town to withhold licences when bylaw compliance is in question."

As I understand the facts, the complaint relates to an ancillary building on the property (ie. a garage) not used in the business of the B&B but used for the personal enjoyment of the owners of the business.

At best there is only a potential breach of a non-licensing bylaw and not of

the bylaw relating directly to the licensing of the B&B.

Are we to assume that the town would withhold a B&B licence of an owner who has an outstanding unpaid parking ticket (a bylaw infringement) issued by the town?

Here is some free legal advice to the town. In one word, settle.

Ron Fritz
Queenston



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Bartel has sights on **Olympic** rowing

Continued from Front Page

Elated, arms raised, fists pounding, Bartel and his crew release a torrent of emotion to celebrate their win, “the hard work we put into the boat and having it all pay off.”

Only three hours before the men’s 8 final on Saturday, Aug. 20, Bartel raced in the men’s pair with partner Shane Keagan of Fonthill, missing a medal position by seconds.

“I was a little disappointed from the pair, that we didn’t medal but I was more focused on racing the 8 rather than the pair,” Bartel said in an interview Monday, his 20th birthday.

Redemption wasn’t long off for both him and Keagan in the 8s race.

Going into the men’s 8 race, the Ontario crew was more motivated because they knew people in the British Columbia boat and the competitive drive was much higher, he said.

And B.C. was the fastest boat in the heats, almost four seconds faster than Ontario.

With such a short time frame between two important medal races, every athlete has their own way of making sure they’re ready.

“I take a lot of caffeine before racing, which gets me really hyped up,” Bartel said. “And I am not a serious guy before races, so I like to keep it light.”

But the second a race starts, he’s totally focused, his head totally in the boat.

In Saturday’s gold medal win his focus changed during the last 50 metres of the race, Bartel admitted.

As he and his crew were just a few boat-lengths from the finish line, “I was literally just staring at the other boat the whole time,” his entire body grinding and pulling and wishing the Ontario boat to gold.

Rowing is a family affair



Kai Bartel and Zubin Gatta strut with their medals on Queen Street. RICHARD HARLEY

for Bartel, literally in his blood.

His father Paul rowed out of St. Catharines and his cousin Owen Bartel, from St. Catharines, competed in the 2022 Summer Games, winning gold and silver.

Kai’s mother Lesley and 17-year-old sister Emma are among his biggest supporters. And his youngest sister, Kennedy, started rowing this year.

During the fall and winter months, Bartel studies at the University of Victoria where he is majoring in commerce. He’s on his way there now, on a road trip to B.C. with his dad this week.

He hopes to get “into the varsity boat at UVIC for this upcoming year and then I’m gearing up for the under-23 championships

next year in Bulgaria.”

The men’s 8 crew for the 2022 Summer Games includes several other racers from across Niagara, but they literally came together as a team the week of the competition.

“I feel like we’re all rowing in the same calibre,” Bartel said.

“We understand what needs to get done in order to win, so we all gelled together pretty quickly.”

The team and individual performances on the water at Port Dalhousie last week were invaluable experiences, teaching the athletes a lot about themselves and their sport.

At almost 6 foot 4, with broad shoulders and a lean build, Bartel is not a small guy, but one of the things he learned from his gold

medal race is will and desire can triumph.

“It doesn’t matter how big you are and how fast you are. We beat a boat full of guys that were bigger than us.”

With a gold medal around his neck, Bartel says the Canada Summer Games experience is just one more step on the road to his Olympic dream.

He’s confident he is headed in the right direction and hopes to follow in the wake of other rowers, like Trevor Jones, who spun Canada Games gold in 2017 into a spot on the Olympic team.

In the meantime, the training sessions at the break of dawn and daily skill development will continue as he strives to build on this summer’s success.



Athletes from Team Alberta out on Lake Ontario for the Summer Games sailing races. JIM SCHACHT

Sailing races **completed** despite low lake winds

Continued from Front Page

Lake Ontario was oddly calm for most of the Games, an unusual occurrence, as anyone who spends time near the waterfront can attest.

Of course, by Tuesday, two days after the Games wrapped up, the lake was its usual churning, turbulent self again.

Last Saturday morning, on the last scheduled day of competition, things were “not looking promising,” Canada Games sport information officer Clara Gravely said in an interview.

Races were initially scheduled for 11 a.m. but the athletes did not cast out into the water until nearly 2 p.m.

There was a full slate of medal races plus some incomplete races carried over from Friday’s session.

“You can sail in all types of conditions and it’s a little bit of a different technique and strategy when it’s light wind,” said Gravely, who competed at the Canada Summer Games in 2017.

“The minimum is techni-

cally supposed to be five knots (about 9km/h),” she added.

Scheduling delays are part and parcel of competitive sailing, though.

But by 4 p.m. Saturday the boats were moving across the lake consistently and Gravely hoped they would finish the races on the schedule before the day was out.

However, four events had to be pushed to Sunday morning.

For the competitors, waiting for the race to start can be as nerve-wracking as the race itself.

“It’s definitely challenging as an athlete,” Gravely said, speaking to her own experience with competitive sailing.

“You kind of have to just go with the flow and keep yourself a little bit entertained and not too high strung while you’re on shore,” she added.

Victoria Coady, a gold medallist for British Columbia in the ILCA 6 class on Saturday, said, “It is tough. It’s sort of like a hurry up and wait kind of game.”



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Is Your Child Ready For The New School Year?

Fort pays tribute to Summer Games with **Soldier's Field Day**

Jessica Maxwell
The Lake Report

Muskets firing, fife and drum demonstrations, and the first edition of the Soldier's Wife Challenge filled Fort George last weekend for the Soldier's Field Day – a tribute to the Canada Summer Games.

The two days of demonstrations by re-enactment soldiers and historical interpreters were designed to help spectators see elements of life at the fort over 200 years ago.

In the spirit of the demonstrations and competitions that Fort George has put on for past field days, the women are now getting involved because they are a big part of what makes up the garrison, said Dan Laroche, the site supervisor at the fort.

"We have to recognize that women were part of the regiments, a part of the family – as I like to put it – of the regiment," he said.

"And although they're not necessarily combatants, they still are an integral part of what makes a regiment run."

As a part of the friendly



These pictures highlight one of the soldiers' "Dressed for Duty Competition," in which two soldiers remove their tunics, lie in a bed covered with a blanket (in temperature feeling like 34C). Then on a drum roll they both spring to their feet and race to get their tunics and belts and bayonet belt, hat, etc., to see who can dress the fastest. The action was narrated and explained by Jim Hill of Niagara Parks and Peter Martin of Parks Canada. TONY CHISHOLM

competition, three women who are historical interpreters at the fort took part in an obstacle course-style race that exhibited different responsibilities that soldiers' wives would have at the fort.

"Because the soldiers can't have all the fun at Fort George here today, we've developed our soldier's wife challenge, representing all the things that

soldiers wives would have to do here at the fort on a daily basis," Peter Martin, events co-ordinator at the fort, told the spectators before the games began.

Paloma Wapinski-Webb, Emily Bordin and Christine Rier took turns being timed as they ran through the course where they had to do things like wring out and hang clothing, fill and push a wheelbarrow

with firewood and search through a pile of buttons for one that belonged to the 41st Regiment.

"It is a little bit different than the normal stuff that we do on a day-to-day basis, but everyone has a competitive spirit. Everybody kind of wanted to get involved in some way or another," Laroche said.

He credited Martin, "who came up with different

things that involve every element of the operation of the fort."

"Everything that's represented had a huge, an important role to play in the operation of the fort 210 years ago."

Grats Gazolla was at the fort on Saturday with his wife Joan and four grandchildren where they watched the demonstrations by the historical interpreters.

"We spend a lot of time coming down to Niagara-on-the-Lake and always make sure we take the kids down to Fort George at least once a year," Gazolla said.

His grandchildren said it was fun to watch the Soldier's Wife Challenge but some of them weren't sure they could do it faster than the women who had competed.



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Nancy has lived, worked and played in Niagara-on-the-Lake for over 30 years and loves the community. Helping to raise money for Rotary International, as well as local charity Red Roof Retreat, is very rewarding to her. She enjoys making sure that her friends, family and clients have events to come together and have a great time.


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Canada Summer Games coast to a **noisy ending** with fireworks



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
The Lake Report

My pal Dave Boyes and I attended the closing ceremony of the Canada Summer Games in Niagara Falls.

It was a nostalgic trip for both of us, as we had both been part of Olympic closing ceremonies, way back when.

In Atlanta in 1996, proudly wearing an Olympic silver medal around his neck, Dave was an ear-to-ear grinning part of the Canadian Olympic team as they waved to the world and partied on the stadium infield. They were celebrating a wonderful athletic experience.

As for me, way back in 1972 in Munich, only days after the tragic murders of 11 Israeli Olympic athletes by the Palestinian terrorist group Black September, I

borrowed the All Black track suit of an inebriated New Zealand field hockey player, and ambled into the Olympic Stadium with the Kiwi team. Heightened security? Gemutlichkeit!

Closing ceremonies are special. Much less formal than opening ceremonies, which tend to be a bit overly structured, beginning with the almost militaristic parade of nations.

Most Niagarans stayed on their couches, but Dave and I rode our bikes up to Queen Victoria Park for the event. Congratulations to the event planner of the closing ceremony.

All day, the weather had been threatening, but as the worn cliché goes, "The weather was perfect." The parade of athletes was flawless and inspiring, with so many fresh-faced Canadians here from coast-to-coast-to-coast for a final event that was brilliantly staged in front of the magnificent American Falls.

Most residents never got into the spirit of the Canada Summer Games and there was no real buzz about the events. Even some of my internet-savvy friends



The Canada Games came to a close on Sunday. STEVE PARR PHOTO

became frustrated, unable to navigate the Games website to learn about schedules, results or tickets.

For some reason, other than The Lake Report, media coverage was minimal, with national papers and television networks ignoring the action.

The teams walked in some sort of order, waving to the crowd who cheered them thank you and goodbye. A massive stage had been set up with all the attendant audio and visual equipment needed for such a large-scale

production. An enthusiastic announcer kept the crowd apprised of who was arriving and the teams took their places for the ceremony.

There were provincial and territorial flags flying, but a noticeable paucity of red and white maple leaf Canadian flags. Even the nearby Sky-lon Tower was not lit up and we couldn't see if the Canadian and American Falls had been illuminated with our national colours.

The invited speakers thankfully respected the three Bs of public speaking.

"Be Brief. Be Sincere. Be seated." MP Adam Van Koeverden, a former Olympian, was the highlight, revving up the teams to a fever pitch as they cheered loudly for the Canada Games and themselves.

It was an emotional few minutes as this Canadian athletic icon enthusiastically got everyone into the spirit.

Security, security, security. What a world we have become. Even in peaceful Canada, in laid-back Niagara, there were several Niagara Parks Commission

dump trucks parked perpendicularly across River Road.

Not to pick up garbage later, but to stop any possible terrorists from driving into the crowd. Sad, but necessary in these times.

The closing ceremony started right on time and ended right on time. Good entertainment, good videos, good audio. An organizational triumph, eh?

My conclusion?

The Canada Games were a success in many ways, with the willing help of many volunteers ensuring a top-flight athletic experience for the various teams. Very well-organized despite the ongoing deadly pandemic delays, and lots of legacy projects that will benefit Niagara in the future.

Why was there no real effort to get the public involved? The volunteers and the teams were so enthusiastic and classy. Such great sportsmanship, such exciting events.

But it's hard to get excited when you are almost alone watching.

Let's learn a lesson here and pack the stands for the next big event that Niagara hosts.



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-Denise A.

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FEATURED

‘Butterfly Queen’ urges help to preserve endangered monarchs

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

If there’s a butterfly anyone can identify, it’s the monarch.

That’s why the migratory monarch’s new designation as an endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature is “really sad,” says a woman known as Niagara-on-the-Lake’s “Butterfly Queen.”

“This is why I’m doing all I can to educate others,” said Charlotte Letkemann, who has spent decades learning about butterflies.

The retired teacher’s passion for butterflies started in 1970 when she discovered two cecropia moths mating.

As a teacher at the time, she was always interested in learning new things, she said. She covered the moths with a net and the next morning, though the male had got out, the female laid eggs.

It’s now 52 years later and butterflies are a huge part of her everyday life.



Charlotte Letkemann with a monarch. SOMER SLOBODIAN

She wants to educate others about butterflies and what they can do to help the species. She often goes to seniors residences and gives presentations to those who are interested.

Letkemann encourages residents to plant native milkweed in their gardens. Milkweed is where butterflies lay their eggs. The butterflies lay an egg on the bottom of each leaf.

The conservation union also suggests reducing pesticide use.

Letkemann enjoys watching the four stages of a monarch life from inside her home. Once they emerge as a butterfly from the chrysalis, she releases them outside a few hours later.

Migratory monarchs travel 4,000 to 5,000 kilometres from Canada to the mountains of Mexico each year to hibernate.

Six years ago the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada also listed monarchs as endangered.

arches as endangered.

This used to be the longest known migration of any insect. That was until the dragonfly beat it, said Dr. Gard Otis, a retired behavioural ecology and apiculture professor from the University of Guelph.

There are many non-migratory monarchs around the world that are not endangered, said Otis. It’s the two species seen in North America – the eastern monarch and the western monarch – that are in serious trouble.

“The monarch is not going to disappear from the planet, but the concern is that the migratory population that we know in North America could disappear, either largely disappear, or completely disappear,” he said.

Eastern migratory monarchs spend their winters in Mexico, then make the journey to the north in late February or early March.

Throughout their trip, they give birth many times, producing multiple generations. Only about 10

per cent of monarchs from Mexico make the full trip to Canada.

The rest that arrive here are the offspring born along the way in the southern states. By the end of each summer, the fourth-generation monarchs are ready to make the trip back to Mexico.

From 1996 to 2014, the eastern monarch population declined by 84 per cent, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

But, the western monarch is at even greater risk of extinction.

Western monarchs are a smaller population and overwinter in California. They make the journey west of the U.S. Rockies in spring and summer.

The conservation union’s website says between the 1980s and 2021, the population declined by 99.9 per cent, from 10 million to fewer than 2,000.

But this year following the New Year’s count, remarkably, 151,168 were tallied

at 209 overwintering sites. This follows the Thanksgiving tally in 2021 of over 250,000 western monarchs.

However, due to extreme climate change, increased use of pesticides, habitat loss and invasive species the number of migrating monarchs continues to be a major concern.

The Oyamel Fir Forest is a popular spot in Mexico for monarchs to spend winters. Due to deforestation and thinning, the monarchs are becoming more exposed to dangerous conditions such as winter storms and cold temperatures.

In California, real estate development is one of the biggest threats to the western monarch.

There wouldn’t be any catastrophic effects to the ecosystem if we lost the migratory monarchs. But, we would lose great pollinators and a butterfly that is beloved by many.

“If people in Ontario know any kind of butterfly, they know the monarch,” said Otis.

Be wary, caterpillars of pretty white butterflies are voracious eaters

Charlotte Letkemann
Special to The Lake Report

You may have noticed a lot of quick-flying little white butterflies around lately.

They are European cabbage white butterflies, which originally came over from Europe in the 1800s, perhaps in the form of eggs or caterpillars with other goods coming to North America.

They started wreaking havoc wherever plants in the cabbage family were

growing as the caterpillars of these butterflies are voracious eaters. And, as they are the colour of the leaf on which they are feeding, they can do a lot of damage before anyone realizes it.

About two weeks ago I found at least 12 green caterpillars of various sizes on the kale plants growing in a large pot on my deck.

The leaves were in very poor condition, having been chewed on by these destructive creatures before I realized what was happening.

After some research, I re-



A male cabbage white butterfly. WIKIPEDIA

alized these were the larva form of the pretty, little white butterflies I’d been seeing almost everywhere

throughout the summer.

The tiny offspring of these butterflies are called cabbage white caterpillars. They like to feed on cabbage leaves, along with other vegetables in the brassicaceae (or mustard) family, like broccoli, cauliflower, kale and brussels sprouts.

So, if you see a dainty white butterfly with black markings fluttering around in your yard, you might want to head over to your garden and check on your vegetables.

Without intervention, the leaves of the veggies you painstakingly cultivated all season will soon be riddled with pin-sized holes — tangible evidence that the caterpillars have been feasting at your garden’s expense.

The cabbage white caterpillars are also known as imported cabbage worms — an invasive species that originated in Europe, Asia and North Africa.

Surprisingly, these caterpillars are not actually white — they’re green. The name refers to their

love of cabbage leaves and metamorphosis into white butterflies when they reach adulthood.

They tend to be kind of velvety because they have small hairs on them.

The butterflies lay their eggs on the underside of the leaves and when those eggs hatch the larvae feed on the leaves of your vegetables. That is where the damage happens.

Their life cycle is only 32 to 45 days but they can do a considerable amount of harm in a short time.

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Popular pig roast returns to NOTL Legion



Calvin House prepares the roasted pig. JESSICA MAXWELL

Jessica Maxwell
The Lake Report

The corn was piping hot and the roasted pig delicious as ever at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion's pig roast Sunday afternoon.

People came out for some cold beers and to socialize in the hot weather as Legion member Calvin House tended to the roasting pig.

Normally an annual event, the pig roast was pre-empted by COVID the past two summers.

While there were some issues getting the large pig

to roast properly on the spit early in the day, Debbie House said Calvin and his brother Tom were able to make the most of it and get the meat roasting for the afternoon diners.

People sitting outside the Legion were in good spirits, patiently waiting for the coming feast.

Lisa Pizzacala and Dean Gould came from St. Catharines to support the pig roast and said they were looking forward to filling their plates with roasted pork on a bun, hot corn on the cob and some fresh salad.

Chautauqua Labour Day corn roast and BBQ is back

Staff
The Lake Report

For the first time since 2019, Chautauqua Park will be buzzing with activity this Labour Day as the Niagara-on-the-Lake neighbourhood's annual corn roast and barbecue returns.

It's also a big birthday party, as the Chautauqua Residents Association, which organizes the affair, is celebrating its 70th anniversary.

"The annual Chautauqua corn roast and barbecue has

been a very successful social event in our community for years prior to COVID," said association president Brian Crow.

"Derek Cadman, chair of the event, has lots of corn for roasting, hot dogs, including veggie dogs this year, and soft drinks with free hot dogs for kids 12 and under," he said.

There also will be kids games and music.

"It feels good to be working on getting it back again, especially to celebrate the 70th anniversary," Crow said.

The party is slated for Monday, Sept. 5, from 4 to 6 p.m.

"It is a great opportunity for those who have recently moved here to meet with their neighbours and long-term residents. We have three generations of one family living here," Crow noted.

The residents association also will be signing up new members and renewing existing memberships.

The annual membership fee is \$10.



The corn roast returns Sept. 5 at Chautauqua Park.

Hydro box beautification contest open for voting

Staff
The Lake Report

Art enthusiasts can now cast their vote for their favourite beautified wrap in Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro's annual hydro transformer art contest.

All art submissions can be viewed at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre

from now through Oct. 22, but public voting ends Sept. 9.

NOTL Hydro has selected three transformer boxes for beautification: one in front of the Legion on King Street, one at Fort George and the other at Fort Mississauga.

Two of the winners will be selected by a jury and

the third will be chosen by community vote – the People's Choice Award.

People must cast their votes at the Pumphouse at 247 Ricardo St. and open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This year's theme is a nod to the military heritage of Canada.

The three winning artists will be awarded a

\$500 prize.

NOTL Hydro has been partnering with the Pumphouse and the NOTL Communities in Bloom Committee since 2019 to organize this contest.

Together, they have decorated nine hydro boxes since launching the competition.

The winners will be announced Sept. 15.



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: Motorcycles

The logo of this company founded in 1903 is one of the most requested tattoos in the world.

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

Answer: What is Iceland?

Answered first by: Margie Enns

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Jane Morris, Randie Topps, Pam Dowling, Wesley Mann, Gordon Yanow, Olivia Heck, Bert Dandy, Sheila Meloche, Wade Durling, Howard Jones, Doug Bruce, Elaine Landray, Steve Siansky, Brenda Bartley

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

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

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Furry friends celebrate pet store's 10th anniversary in Virgil

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Dogs and cats alike put aside any differences and came together for Pet Valu's 10th anniversary celebration in Virgil on Sunday.

The day had a bit of a fun, carnival atmosphere as tables and tents were set up in the parking lot.

Pet owners brought their furry friends to NOTL from across Niagara for the party.

"Today is all about thanking our customers," said Carol Thibault, owner of the Pet Valu franchise in Virgil. She's been with Pet Valu for 18 years, and has owned the one in Virgil for ten.

Dozens of raffle prizes were available and many local organizations, like Grape Escape and Simba's Salon, donated items.

"All these awesome gifts have been donated by local businesses," said Tanya Rice, a volunteer with NOTL Cat Rescue.

All of the money raised from Sunday's raffle and barbecue – \$2,892 – goes to the rescue, Rice said.

The money helps the



Michelle Nicholls and Ayva Bosse, 8, of Niagara Falls, take Chloe, a nine-year-old chihuahua mix, to get a microchip. RICHARD HARLEY PHOTOS

organization cover veterinary bills, food, toys and whatever supplies a foster home might need to adopt a cat, she said.

"NOTL Cat Rescue provides the volunteers with what they need to take care of those kittens," she said.

She's been volunteering with the rescue for five years. Last year, she started fostering cats along with her husband.

"I've been an animal

lover my entire life," she said.

The rescue is always looking for good-hearted people who will open up their homes to foster a cat, she added.

In the store, the rescue had two black and white kittens – Toby and Tessa – who were available for adoption.

The Niagara SPCA and Humane Society was on

hand with its mobile spay and neuter clinic at the fundraiser. The mobile facility is sponsored by Pet Valu as part of its Giving Back program.

Microchipping – to track pets if they get lost – also was available.

The Virgil fundraiser was the first of the year for the mobile clinic as COVID has curtailed operations since 2019.



Chris Allan of St. Catharines with Stormy, a 13-week-old lilac Merle French bulldog.



NOTLers Mark and Sammy Dempsey bring their St. Bernards Denver (big) and Cleo for microchips on Sunday.



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St. Davids car show steps **back in time**



PHOTO GALLERY
See more pictures at niagaranow.com

Lake Report photographer Dave Van de Laar captured a gallery of images from the St. Davids Lions car show on Sunday. Left: People peruse the cars at the show. Top right: A 1955 Austin Healey Model 1004. Bottom right: A 1939 Ford. **Find more photos at niagaranow.com**

‘Just a great guy,’ musician Peter Shea dies at age 50

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Funny, mischievous and sweet are a few words Juliet Dunn uses to describe her late husband and musical partner, Peter Shea.

“(He’s) always making people laugh. (He’s) really, really sweet, the kind of person who doesn’t have a bad bone in their body,” Dunn told The Lake Report.

The 50-year-old jazz musician died Sunday morning after battling prostate cancer. Dunn said he had a smile on his face when he passed.

She said he had a wonderful last, physical day on Earth. Friends and family stopped by to see him, including his father, which was very important to Shea.

“It was a beautiful last day and he passed peacefully, which was wonderful because he’d been in pain for a long time,” she said.

Shea co-founded the TD Niagara Jazz Festival with Dunn, whom he met in 2006. Before the jazz festival, the duo performed together around the world. They were inseparable.



Peter Shea was a staple of Niagara jazz. Together with his wife Juliet Dunn he helped run and perform countless shows with the TD Niagara Jazz Festival. He died Sunday after a battle with prostate cancer. FILE/DARIYA BAIGUZHUYEVA

Shea grew up in St. Catharines surrounded by music. Though his dad was a lawyer, he loved to play the piano. His sister performed as a concert pianist and his mom loved to dance.

He graduated from the University of Toronto’s jazz performance and composition program, where his musical instrument was the drums. He also played the piano and was a talented singer.

“(He had a) really beautiful voice. He did a really great imitation of Louis Armstrong that would always bring the house down,” Dunn said with a laugh.

Anybody who knew Shea recognized he was a very funny, mischievous guy, always the class clown, she said.

Shea loved to make people laugh. He loved to do imitations and accents of different characters.

Even when he lost the ability to play his instruments, Shea didn’t show any anger. Dunn said he adapted even though he couldn’t play with his right hand any more.

But when his friends brought him a keyboard nine days ago so that he could jam, he did. And he loved it.

“He was adapting. He was in his hospital bed at home and his friends had brought him the keyboard (and put

it) across his bed so that he could jam,” said Dunn.

Shea’s dad, Michael Shea, told Dunn that his son always managed to find something positive about a person or situation.

Shea and Dunn loved to travel together, and especially enjoyed the beach. One of Dunn’s fondest memories was the last time they went to Negril, Jamaica, in 2021.

Shea wasn’t in the best shape and could barely walk, making it really hard to get him there.

“But you know what? I’m so glad we made it,” said Dunn through tears.

They spent about 12 days in Jamaica. Shea, using a walker, would walk down to the beach, get into the ocean and float around.

On the same trip, while Shea was in the washroom, Dunn asked a band that was playing live music if her husband could sit in with them. She reassured them that he was really good.

“So then when Peter came out of the bathroom, I said, ‘Hey, honey, I’ve volunteered your services,’ ” Dunn said with a laugh.

When he got up on stage,

you wouldn’t know he was ill, she said.

Dunn said she’s thankful for music because without it Shea’s journey would have been a lot shorter.

One of his musical highlights as a musician was as a drummer for the Just for Laughs Road Show. He also toured across Canada with comedian Sean Cullen, performed for a month at the famous Edinburgh Comedy Festival and also played piano with the “Jersey Boys” stage musical in Toronto.

“Peter worked hard to be able to give the gift of music to others,” Michael said to Dunn.

On top of performing, he also taught drums, piano and vocals to students.

“He was just a consummate musician and just a great guy,” said Dunn.

A celebration of life is being held on Sept. 12 at White Oaks Resort. Due to the venue size, the celebration is by invitation only.

“If somebody hadn’t ever met Peter, I’d say they’d meet the sweetest, funniest, goofiest, loveliest, most talented guy and musician you’ve ever met.”

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Two NOTL care homes say residents **love** the arts program

Continued from Front Page

ence – or CARE – program.

It began in late 2019 with Upper Canada Lodge.

“It started as an in-person program where we invited residents from Upper Canada Lodge to come join us at the Pumphouse for an in-person art workshop designed for older adults,” said Rima Boles, the director of the arts centre.

And Kristin Mechelse from Upper Canada Lodge says it helps residents become engaged in a creative past time.

Through a grant from Niagara Recycling, the Pumphouse initially was able to pay for the residents to visit the arts centre monthly and participate in art classes.

When COVID hit, many people were forced to stay indoors.

To continue the art program with Upper Canada Lodge, the Pumphouse came up with the idea of delivering monthly kits so residents could continue the activity from the safety of their homes.

Deliveries began in February 2021 and to date,

Boles said they’ve distributed about 150 kits.

“A lot of the feedback was how great having this opportunity (is) for the residents, especially during COVID. It was something they would look forward to and being able to access them at any time,” said Boles.

The kits include a video tutorial and all of the supplies needed to complete the art projects.

Pumphouse staff work on developing each art project, she said, and they also record the videos and upload them to YouTube.

Then the kits are packaged by either staff or volunteers. The video tutorials allow residents to follow along step-by-step with the help of recreation staff.

“This partnership has allowed our residents to continue to participate in something enjoyable and experience a little bit of ‘normal’ during an abnormal time,” Mechelse, the program manager at Upper Canada Lodge, said in an email.

Originally the home was getting eight art kits a month, but since the



Left: The Abstract Seashells art kit packaged and put together by the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre. The kits are delivered monthly to Pleasant Manor and Upper Canada Lodge. Right: Helen, a resident of Upper Canada Lodge, paints one of the art projects provided by the Pumphouse. SUPPLIED

program is so successful, it now receives 12.

This is the second year the Pumphouse has delivered the monthly art kits. It expanded their program by partnering with Pleasant Manor in Virgil earlier this year.

Chelsea Bilton, a therapeutic recreation supervisor

at Pleasant Manor, said the home usually gets eight to 10 kits a month and residents who have severe dementia have been using them.

“They like (them). It’s easy to follow,” said Bilton.

“They have them all hanging in their room,” she said.



told her she liked how easy the paintings were and that they were made for adults.

The home receives different art projects each month. One month, residents got to create an abstract seashell project with a watercolour resist technique. That’s when artists draw with crayons or pastels and paint over it with watercolours.

Boles noted, “Another project was like a keepsake bowl made of air-dry clay using the pinch pot, sculptural method” – using a ball of clay and pinching it into the desired shape.

Mechelse hopes to have an instructor from the Pumphouse come to Upper Canada Lodge and run the program in-person with their recreation staff one day.

For now, members of the recreation staff lead the program with a small group of residents, or one-to-one.

“We truly appreciate the flexibility and dedication demonstrated by the Niagara Pumphouse Art Centre as well as the opportunity to provide meaningful activities for our residents,” said Mechelse.



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Three **champions** named to NOTL's Sports Wall of Fame

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Some new athletes will be added to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sports Wall of Fame at the Meridian Credit Union Arena this Friday.

The inductees are Trevor Falk, Yvonne Haines and Launcelot Cressy Servos, a historical figure from more than a century ago.

Falk is a grape grower, taking his passion for wine from his grandfather who gave the family crop its start back in the 1930s, but he is also well-known for the competitive spirit he brings to sports, especially hockey.

He competed at a high level in both track and field and hockey in high school.

He also played fastball in a church league when he was young and continues to play with the Niagara Snappers, which he joined in 1999.

He is probably best known for his contributions to hockey.



From left, Launcelot Cressy Servos, Yvonne Haines and Trevor Falk. SUPPLIED

He played for three years with the St. Catharines Junior B Falcons, where he scored 52 goals in his final year.

He also played an additional three years with the Brock University Badgers, choosing to play for his home team although he had earned a U.S. hockey

scholarship.

Falk now volunteers behind the scenes as the director of development for the NOTL Minor Hockey Association.

Haines has been active with the NOTL Skating Club for about 30 years and has volunteered her

time as president, secretary and treasurer among other duties.

She is a three-time winner of the skating club's Volunteer of the Year award and the 2015 recipient of the Niagara Skating Council's Volunteer of the Year award.

Not only is Haines a constant voice cheering on skaters from the stands, she is also an active skater herself.

She won gold at the Canadian National Adult Championships in Calgary in 2007 and bronze in Brampton, 2008.

Servos was born in 1879 in Buffalo but cut his teeth in golf on the greens of Niagara.

He is recognized in the history books for his work as an instructor, athlete and course designer.

In 1900, he set a record for the longest drive, hitting the ball 230 yards down the fairway at the U.S. Open.

"It is no secret how well-loved sports are in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and each year, we get to honour residents who have made a significant contribution to sports in the community," Lord Mayor Betty Disero said in a news release.

The event will start with a social at 5 p.m. with the ceremony commencing at 6 p.m.

The Niagara Wall of Fame started in 2003 and inducts a few individuals every year.

Inductees are selected based on their contribution to sport, whether as an athlete, coach or official.

Soccer season comes to a **close**



The NOTL Soccer Club's summer season is coming to a close this Saturday with games and fun on the pitches at Centennial Sports Park in Virgil. MOLLY BOWRON

NOTL accounting firm holds **\$1K** draw for NOTL non-profits

Maddy Gordon
The Lake Report

A Niagara-on-the-Lake accounting firm wants to give back to the community that has been a key part of its success by making two donations of \$1,000 to area charities.

And Lida Kowal Professional Corp. is looking for registered NOTL-based not-for-profit and charitable organizations to enter a draw to receive the contributions.



Lida Kowal. FILE

"We get asked for donations and sponsorships from so many organizations throughout the year, but we can't pick just one and

ignore the others. This is a way of fairly giving back to the community," said proprietor Lida Kowal.

Representatives from any registered charity can enter the draw by dropping by Kowal's office at 1627 Niagara Stone Rd. in Virgil and depositing up to five business cards in the draw box.

Entries can be dropped off Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The draw will be held at noon on Oct. 4.



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The shapeshifting American eel's 6,000-km journey to Niagara



Keeping it Green

This is an excerpt from Kyra Simone's talk at the second annual Jane's Walk, starting at 7 p.m. at Ryerson Park on Thursday, Aug. 25. Her full talk will describe the unique life story of several local species, impacts of human activities and how we as humans depend on the web of nature for our own health and well-being.

Kyra Simone
Special to The Lake Report

Nobody really knows how I was conceived.

For hundreds of years, scientists thought American eels spontaneously regenerated; that we suddenly popped into existence, as if by magic. They dissected

specimens, but couldn't find reproductive organs.

My parents and all of the other eels spawn together in the Sargasso Sea, in the North Atlantic Ocean near Bermuda. We only reproduce once in our whole life.

When I was born there, I couldn't swim. So, I use the ocean currents to drift along the east coast of North America for almost a whole year.

Eventually, I change shape into a glass eel, becoming long and transparent. I'm able to leave the ocean now, and swim upstream. As I travel, my body grows snake-like and muscular and darkens into a shade of yellow.

I absorb oxygen with both my skin and gills, so I crawl short distances through damp grass or mud to bypass obstacles.

Some of my family end up as far inland as Algonquin Park, but I'll spend most of my life in Lake Ontario and Twelve Mile Creek in St. Catharines. I pass the next few decades in fresh water.

Eventually, though scientists don't know what spurs this final change, I shapeshift once more



Lake Report columnist Kyra Simone speaks at last year's Jane's Walk presentation. FILE

into a silver eel: the only time in my life that I grow reproductive organs. Now, ready for my long journey back to the Atlantic Ocean, I can't eat – I don't even have a working digestive system.

Long ago, my relatives could drift and swim freely, but my path is no longer clear; the streams are now broken up by dams and man-made blockages.

Pieces of plastic make their way from shore into our homes and we mistake them for food. Microplastics have been found in the Sargasso Sea, our breeding grounds.

Humans used to hunt us in large numbers; we were one of the most-harvested species from Lake Ontario. Fishing was eventually banned by 2005, only after the number of young

eels returning to the lake through the upper St. Lawrence River plummeted by 99 per cent.

With pressures from all sides, American eels are now an endangered species: we face a high risk of extinction.

As a top predator, we manage populations of species lower in the food chain, including invasive ones that damage the ecosystem, like

gobies and zebra mussels. When eel populations do well, we're also important food for large raptors, like eagles and ospreys.

Our health acts as an early warning system to show how safe the water is: for animals and humans alike. Plastics, chemicals and bacteria that affect us will be harmful to others as well.

The silvery-eel lining? Though plastics like cigarette butts are still littered in the trillions and items flushed down toilets end up in waterways, new regulations are starting to ban plastics that build up in our stomachs. And humans are dismantling old reservoirs and dams, especially in the Great Lakes area, which makes it easier for us to swim back to our birthplace to start the mysterious, decades-long cycle once more.

Kyra Simone is a PhD student in environmental science, with master's degrees in biology & science communication. When not researching climate change, she advocates for a sustainable future, picks up litter, and makes recycled jewelry.

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Team Marlow combines to win annual Matrimonial golf tourney

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

It's been a busy few weeks on the links at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club.

With the annual club championship tourney wrapped up, perhaps the second-biggest event of the season was played last week.

The Matrimonial Cup tourney pairs couples in what is probably the toughest format for men and women – 18 holes of alternate shots.

It's not so difficult for the men, as women generally hit the ball in the fairway, straight and away from trouble spots. Gents, on the other hand, tend to tour the entire course, often visiting places into which their partners have never ventured.

This year, Sharron and Bernard Marlow came out on top in the competition with a net score of even-par 72.

"Our score on the back nine was a personal best for both of us, so I guess we worked well as a team," Bernard said later.

"Our strategy was to stay out of trouble and not give our partner difficult shots



Left: NOTL Golf Club pro Keith Vant presents Bernard and Sharron Marlow with the Matrimonial Cup. Right: Wood Trophy tournament organizer Karen Vamplew, left, presents Margot Richardson with the Flo Monroe Memorial Trophy. SUPPLIED PHOTOS



and lies. A little bit of luck helped as our putts were dropping in the cup, not sitting on the rim like they usually do."

They edged out Carolyn and Drew Porter, and Marilyn and Cal Cochrane (net 73), followed by Susan and David Gagne and Charlotte Kainola and Neville Da Silva (75).

Honorable mention went to low-handicappers Louise Robitaille and Stephen Warboys, who teamed up for an enviable gross score of 79.

In the non-member division, where only one partner is a club member, using the Callaway scoring system, Lenore and Rick Janes were first with 75, followed

by Wendy and Bob Lowe (also 75) and Lois and Paul Chapman (78).

Earlier, a team of 14 women from the club competed in a field of 40 golfers in the long-running Wood trophy tournament in NOTL.

The NOTL crew, with a net score of 284, were crowned champions, led

by Margot Richardson and Lisa Allen, who both carded a net 69, Ginny Green (72) and Carroll Baker, Chris Earl, Marie Ellison and Susan Gagne (74).

Richardson also won the Flo Monroe Memorial Low Net Senior Trophy.

Stefi Markovich of Port Colborne won low gross honours with a 1-over 73.

The nine-hole women's league played for the Carmichael Cup on Aug. 9 and Marlene Sibbald prevailed, with a net score of 35.

Other best net scores: Candace Maclean (36), Catherine Novick (37) and Suzanne Rate and Barb Werner (38).

Best gross scores: Sibbald (48), Penny Green (49), and Ruth Dowsett and Rate (51).

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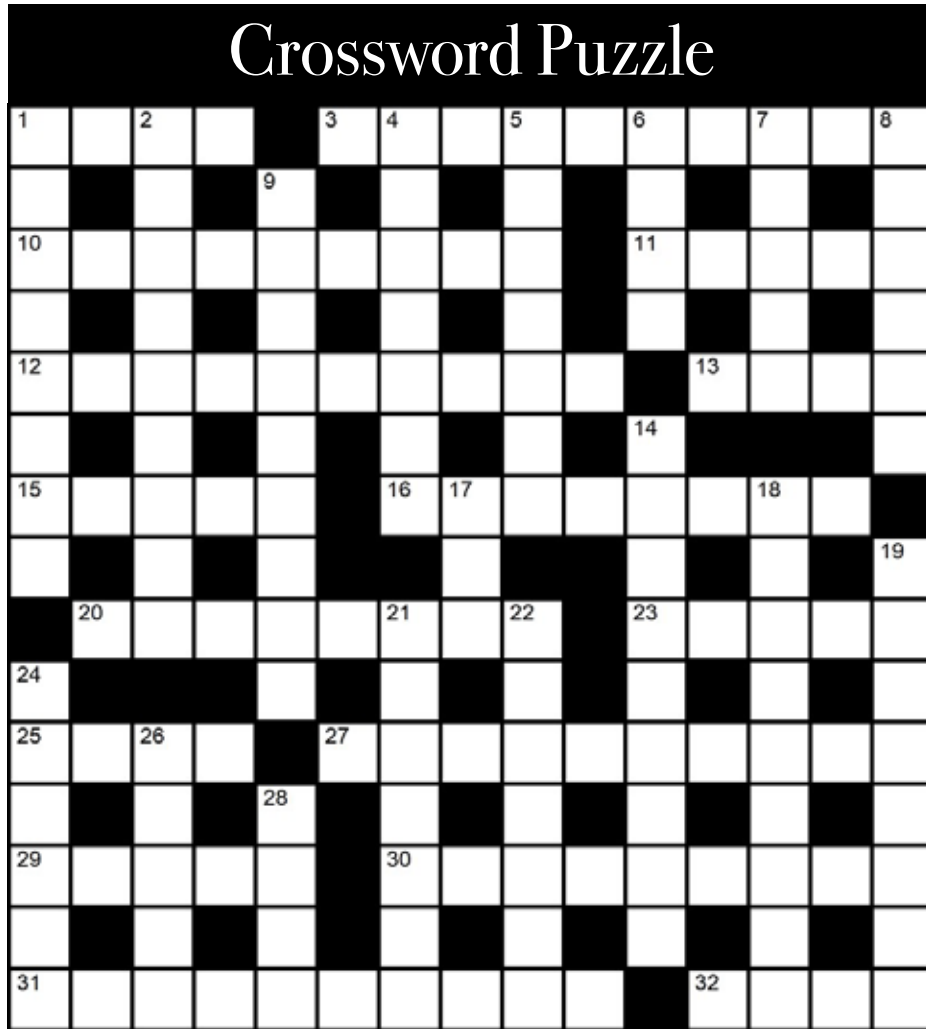
GAMES 

Have some fun

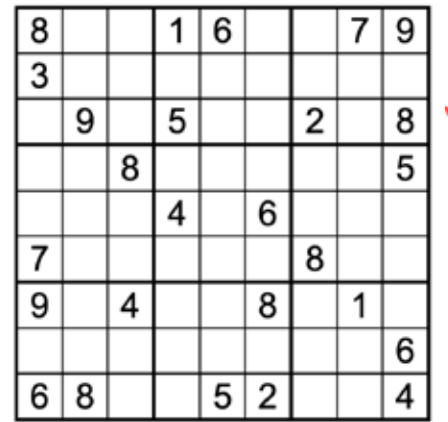


- Across**
- It preceded the C I S (1,1,1,1)
 - Comes before a sentence (10)
 - In a higher bracket (9)
 - School tool (5)
 - Taggers' normal medium (5-5)
 - Ore vein (4)
 - Mission Impossible's --- Hunt (5)
 - Those who change to suit the circumstances (8)
 - Eternity is about the whole (8)
 - South American ruminant (5)
 - One of five on D-Day (4)
 - Two-sided (10)
 - This Tom had a cabin (5)
 - Knock hen out for 25% (3-6)
 - Silver lining (6,4)
 - Reply request (1,1,1,1)

- Down**
- Not cleaned (8)
 - Spiky customer on the seabed (3,6)
 - Site of major WW2 battle in the Pacific (7)
 - Roofed open gallery attached to a house (7)
 - Known in Eire as "the rebel city" (4)
 - Icehouse? (5)
 - Turbulent Severn causes anxiety (6)
 - Avoiding the outdoors (7,2)
 - Small daggers (9)
 - Foundation of pointillism (3)
 - Comforts (9)
 - Operated by 29 Across, perhaps (8)
 - Paper cutters, maybe (7)
 - Important period for accountants (4-3)
 - City satellite (6)
 - Plain code for computers (1,1,1,1,1)
 - Common term for computer and web programs (4)

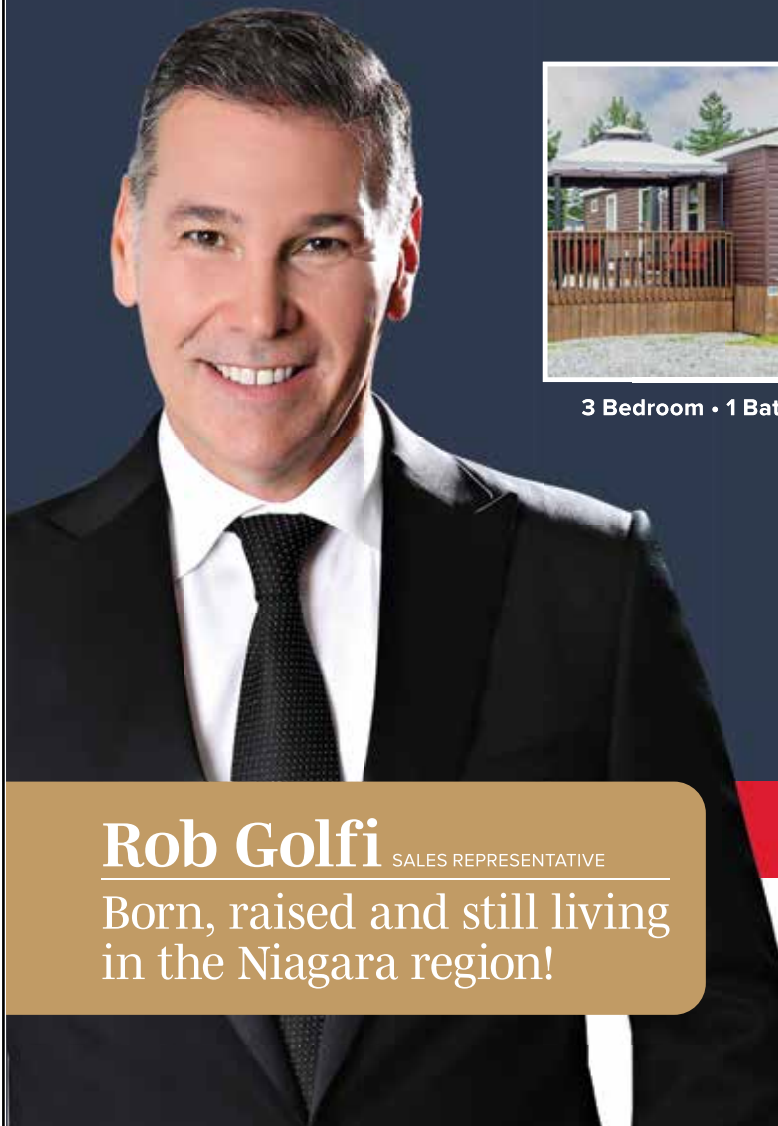


Last issue's answers



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Delving into the **flawed hypothesis** of physics' Standard Model



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

By the mid-20th century, quantum physics was a mature major success story.

Fifty years earlier, some scientists including Max Planck, questioned whether the atom even existed. Yet within half a century, the particle nature of the atom including the nucleus and its constituent parts, the electron and other particles had been discovered together with two new forces.

The strong force holds protons together in the nucleus and the weak force governs the decay of unstable subatomic particles. And, most impressive for me, the quantal nature of the energy and orbits of electrons about the nucleus was established by 1930.

By almost every measure,

quantum physics was a huge success. By the mid-20th century, physics was ripe for a model designed to unite all the findings of quantum physics and point the way to particles and forces not yet discovered.

Such a model – the Standard Model – was proposed in the 1960s to unite all that was known about atomic particles and forces. It turned out to be highly predictive and led to the discovery of the Higgs boson for which a Nobel Prize was awarded 30 years later to Peter Higgs in 2013 and the discovery of neutrinos.

Later studies by Canadian physicist Arthur McDonald revealed the changing identity of neutrinos and McDonald shared a Nobel in 2015.

Proof for the existence of the Higgs particle, or as some referred to it, the “God” particle, required the services of hundreds of scientists and engineers using the Hadron Collider in Switzerland to reveal and statistically prove the Higgs particle existed.

Neutrinos, on the other hand, necessitated study-

THE
HIGGS
BOSON



ing their properties well beneath the Earth's surface to screen out other particles from the experiments.

But all was not well with the Standard Model. It failed to reconcile particle physics with Einstein's general relativity and take account of gravity and dark matter, the latter of which's gravitational force plays a major role in shaping gaseous clouds of hydrogen and other matter into nascent galaxies and stars.

One way to get around the inconvenience of general relativity was to find flaws in the theory. So far, however, every experiment to test general relativity's predictions has supported the theory.

That includes a recent study of two pulsars, neutron stars, which emit powerful bursts of radiation at metronomic intervals. The

study revealed the mass of each of these incredibly dense stars changed the timing of the radiation emitted by the other neutron star – precisely as predicted by general relativity.

So much for flaws in Einstein's theory of general relativity.

And when the first black hole was seen in 2019, its shape was consistent with general relativity's predictions. It looks now as if any future general model for physics will have to live with general relativity by finding ways to bring general relativity, gravity and mass into the model.

If those were not enough problems with the Standard Model, what about recent challenges to the model based on its predictive power for the mass of particles? The model cer-

tainly worked for the Higgs boson as the observed mass matched theoretical predictions to a very high degree of confidence.

Then some experimental physicists tackled the W boson. This boson has a mass estimated to be 80 times the mass of the hydrogen nucleus (mass of a single proton).

When the group working collaboratively together with the collider detector at the Fermilab (CDF) measured the mass of the W boson repeatedly and with great precision, the boson's mass turned out to be heavier than the mass predicted by the Standard Model by more than seven standard deviations.

By any statistician's measure, that's a lot. And if the Standard Model is wrong on this, what else is wrong with the model? Good question.

Of course, the battle over whether the Standard Model is fatally wounded isn't over. Plans are afoot to employ the updated CERN collider in Switzerland to see whether its measurements agree with those of Fermilab's collider.

The W boson controversy illustrates how science, in this case physics, works. Create a hypothesis or model to fit what is known or perhaps design a model to challenge what is known and then test, test, test.

And if serious flaws are revealed, it's time to move on from, in the case of the Standard Model, to a new, more inclusive hypothesis or model and once more test them to their limits until their shortcomings become apparent, before beginning again.

Models and hypotheses provide frameworks for future studies, which is precisely what the Standard Model achieved so successfully for the Higgs and neutrino particles.

The Standard Model isn't so much wrong as incomplete, much as Newtonian physics proved to be when general relativity revealed its shortcomings.

That's how science works. Dr. William Brown is a professor of neurology at McMaster University and co-founder of the InfoHealth series at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.

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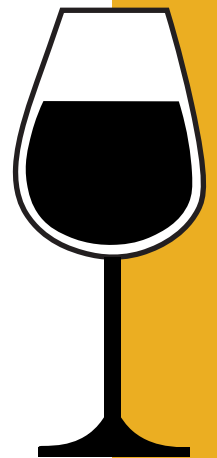
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The NOTL farmerettes

As we drive by all the fruit trees, we sometimes think about the young women who came from out of town during the Second World War to work on the farms. These young ladies, usually aged 16 or older, were hired through the Farm Service Force to assist in harvesting fruits and vegetables for the canning industry. Here are a group of the farmerettes posing outside of their temporary quarters at the Virgil Public School on Four Mile Creek Road in 1941. In the fall, they would return home until the following year.

Puzzled by attempt to **destroy** St. Davids heritage



Brian Marshall
Columnist

When I visited with Jon Kormos at his home in Queenston recently our conversation touched on several topics related to the heritage of Niagara-on-the-Lake and our mutual dismay at some of the changes in the town over the past few decades.

Perhaps it was inevitable that St. Davids, a part of town that seems to have been abandoned to developers, would surface in our discussion.

I was particularly struck by one of Mr. Kormos's comments when he said, "I remember when the approaches to St. Davids were lined with elms whose branches reached over the road and one drove under their shade. Of course, the disease got them and they were never replaced. A shame really, since that St. Davids was a much more gracious place."

It's really not surprising that the loss of those leafed corridors would fundamentally alter the character of one of NOTL's villages.

In hindsight, the decision by the council of that time not to replace them created the stage that has allowed for the type of developments we've seen in the last decade.

I'd like to suggest that, if that "gracious place" had survived intact, the level of citizen resistance to inappropriate development would have stopped it in its tracks.

That said, it is certainly not too late to start managing development and, while little can be done to address the last decade, we can move to restore the beauty.

However, this brings us to another threat on the surviving character of the village.

The Region of Niagara has been strongly pressuring to construct a roundabout at the junction of York and Four Mile Creek roads in the centre of St. Davids. Apparently, the region has a flawed belief that roundabouts are a low-impact panacea address to managing traffic.

In reality, on each corner of this road junction are commercial enterprises that will be, both short and long

term, adversely affected by such a construct.

And, let us not forget the possible (likely) environmental impacts to the water course that runs in close proximity to the planned location.

The region suggests it can design a "small" roundabout, similar I assume to the one at Niagara Stone and Concession 6 roads, to minimize these issues. I guess "small" must be a relative term, because if one imagines placing something this size in the heart of St Davids it will certainly not minimize the issues.

Further, such a "small" roundabout in St. Davids will result in exactly the same access challenges one experiences trying to get onto our existing example off Concession 6 on a weekend.

Personally, having experienced multiple lengthy wait times, I choose to drive three kilometres out of my way in order to avoid it.

Guess that's one way of managing traffic ... get the locals to take backroads.

And folks, as always when dealing with government bureaucrats, the cost doesn't seem to matter. The simple and most workable solution is to install traffic lights on this junction at a cost of about \$250,000.

On the other hand, a roundabout (with all its issues) will ding the taxpayers' pocketbook for more than 10 times that amount, about \$4 million before land expropriation costs are included.

All this while further eroding the heart of one of our villages. May I be so bold as to suggest that in an election year our regional representatives (councillor and lord mayor) might want to address this potential debacle?

Perhaps, if the heart of St. Davids can be preserved, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake will take the opportunity to restore the grace of this historic village.

On another puzzling note, our town council recently asked for staff reports on three heritage properties threatened through demolition by neglect.

It's hard to argue that this is the case when, 177 Byron has had a car-sized hole in the roof for some time and I have often written of my concerns for the David Secord House (a War of 1812 survivor) in St. Davids in this column.

Is a staff report a wake-up call to enforce our existing bylaw? If so, stay tuned next week when I'll add to that list.

Looking to the Stars

Things will get easier if you're honest with yourself

Thursday, Aug. 25: After several weeks in Virgo, today Mercury enters Libra. The key word for Mercury in Libra – and for any planet in Libra – is balance. In the air sign of Libra, Mercury becomes inclusive, diplomatic and people-oriented. This is a great transit for negotiations, reaching agreements and finding win-win outcomes. Mercury will be in Libra for a long time (until the end of October) since it goes retrograde next month. More will follow about Mercury retrograde in Libra soon. If you plan on having microwaved ramen today, sing happy birthday as packaged ramen was first sold on Aug. 25, 1958. The invention is thanks to Momofuku Ando.



Friday, Aug. 26: Saturn in Aquarius is opposed by the moon in Leo, making for a stubborn "I can't get started" kind of Friday. Be honest with yourself and things will get easier. On Aug. 26, 1971, Bobby Orr signed the first million-dollar contract in the NHL. It was five years for \$1 million.

Saturday, Aug. 27: This is the day of the new moon in Virgo. The new moon is three minutes away from a perfect square to Mars in Gemini. Mars squares normally bring tension and conflict. Thankfully, Mars is also part of a beautiful grand trine with Mercury (the new moon ruler) and Pluto. Yes, the new moon in Virgo will push our buttons. Yes, it will stir some uncomfortable conversations. But we can work it out. If Mercury gets away with talking, and doing nothing – Mars doesn't. Mars is the action planet. After we have spoken our truth, what are we going to do about it? Aug. 27, 1883, saw the most powerful explosion in recorded history when the volcano on Krakatoa peaked after months of rumbling. Modern science estimates it

was 13,000 times as powerful as the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

Sunday, Aug. 28: Venus in Leo opposes Saturn in Aquarius, bringing a stop to both personal and professional relationships. The stop is the universe's way of asking us to fix something. If there is no stop, there is likely nothing in need of a fix. Happy birthday #57 to Shania Twain, who once shared an apartment in Nashville with St. Catharines' broadcaster Tim Denis.



Monday, Aug. 29: Mars is in Taurus. The moon is in perfect harmony in Virgo. It's a generous and sexy start to the week. Enjoy. It was Aug. 29, 1910, that Swedish actor Ingrid Bergman was born. Most famous for her role in "Casablanca," she died on Aug. 29, 1982 – her 67th birthday.

Tuesday, Aug. 30: This is a great day to go. Go on a diet. Go on vacation. Go back to school. Just go for it. Last week we celebrated Bosox great Carl Yastrzemski. Today Ted Williams would be 104 years old.

Wednesday, Aug. 31: While imagination and memory work overtime, today is not the best time for life-altering decisions. Make notes. Not contracts. Twenty-five years ago today, the world lost one of its most beloved heroes, Lady Diana Spencer, Princess of Wales. There will be much reminiscing on this, the 25th anniversary of her death.



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Prevention can rid garden of powdery mildew



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Gardening Columnist

Wondering about that white film on the leaves of your plant?

As I have been visiting gardens over the past few weeks, I am seeing more and more examples of powdery mildew – a fungal disease that is a common problem in gardens, infecting a wide variety of plants.

There are many different species of powdery mildew and some plants are more susceptible to it than others.

The most commonly affected vegetables include anything in the squash family such as cucumber, melon and pumpkin as well as tomatoes, eggplants and peppers.

A few of the ornamental plants that are most susceptible are roses, peonies, summer phlox, bee balm, magnolia, ninebarks and lilacs.

Powdery mildew spores drift into your garden with the wind, or if you've had powdery mildew occur in the past, new outbreaks may also come from dormant spores in old vegetation or weeds nearby.

When the fungus begins to take over one of your plants, a layer of mildew made up of many spores, forms across the top of the leaves. These spores are then carried to other plants by the wind.

The mildew can slow down the growth of your plant and, if the infection is severe enough, it can reduce flower or fruit yield and quality. It will not kill your plant, but it makes it look unsightly.

We often associate mildew with moisture, but powdery mildew thrives in warm (15C to 27C), dry climates, though it does require high relative humidity



Powdery mildew on maple. JOANNE YOUNG

can still be spread by the wind and persist in the composted materials.

Selectively prune overcrowded areas to increase air circulation around your plants. This helps to reduce relative humidity.

After pruning infected parts, do not allow pruning shears to touch healthy leaves. First sterilize your pruners with rubbing alcohol.

Do not allow soil to dry for too long, especially around susceptible plants. A regular watering schedule will help to keep plants healthy.

Fungicides should only be used to protect high-value plants with a history of disease. Fungicides will not cure or remove existing powdery mildew infections. Once the majority of leaves have leaf spots, it is too late to treat. If using a fungicide earlier in the season as a preventive or to help kill any overwintering spores, use something organic such as lime sulphur.

Make sure you clean up any infected leaves in the fall and don't leave them at the base of the plants where the spores can re-infect in the spring.

A pinch of prevention goes a long way.

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

(i.e., humidity around the plant) to spread.

So, after a long dry period or in areas with little air circulation, powdery mildew will be more of an issue. Young foliage is most susceptible to damage as leaves turn yellow and dry out.

The best way to controlling this problem is proactive prevention. Here are some tips to prevent mildew:

Choose plants that are resistant to powdery mildew. Many mildew-resistant varieties have been developed and can be bought from major seed suppliers.

Examine plants with a history of severe powdery mildew once a week. As soon as you spot mildew starting to develop, pinch off the worst of the leaves. Do not compost any infected plant, as the disease



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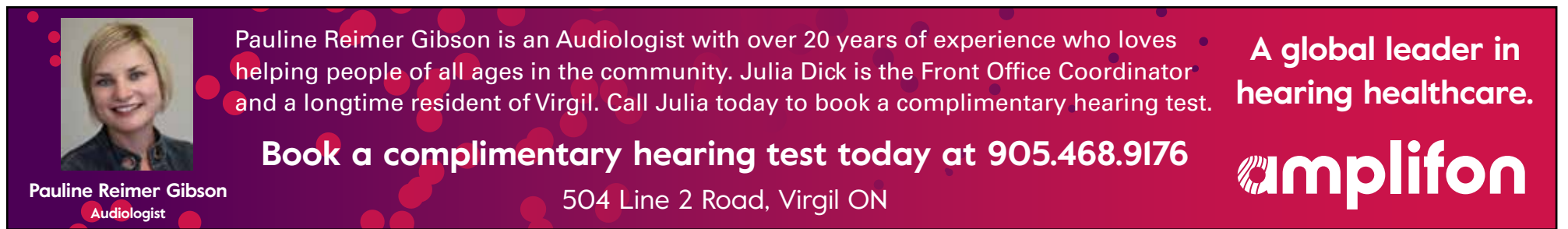
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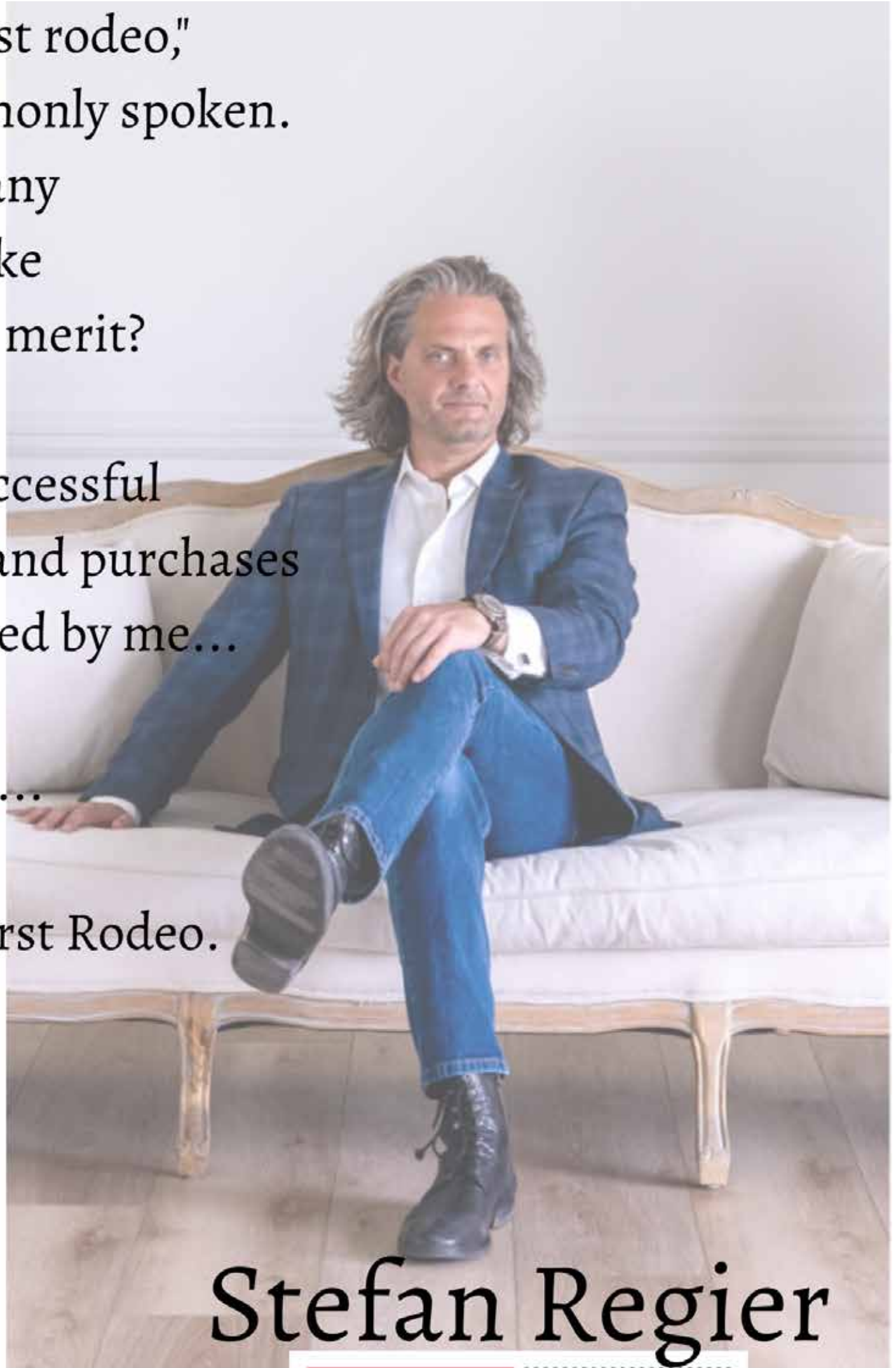
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