



Food Day Canada a **growing** celebration



Story Page 10

A group of about 35 people take a tour through the garden before tasting a meal prepared by Les Marmitons on Saturday, in celebration of Food Day Canada. RICHARD HARLEY

Elaine Tanner proud of **new, confident** Canadian Olympic stars in Tokyo Games

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

There might not have been anyone more excited than Elaine Tanner to witness the Canadian women swimmers' exploits in the pool at the Tokyo Olympics.

She's been there, knows what it takes to excel and what happens if you don't meet others' expectations.

For Tanner, a triple medalist at the 1968 Games, seeing the confident and personable Canadians perform so well was gratifying.

"Oh gosh, I've just been so proud of those girls," said Tanner, now a resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"When you're on a winning streak you really pick up that bravado. When you see Maggie Mac Neil, who won the gold in the butterfly, it really, really uplifts



Elaine Tanner competed for Canada at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, winning three medals. SUPPLIED

the whole team."

Instead of Canadian women swimmers being long shots, "they're now big shots in the pool. It's so great to see the girls really have a lot of confidence in themselves."

With star athletes like Penny Oleksiak, Simone Biles of the U.S. and tennis phenom Naomi Osaka

speaking about the pressures and mental health concerns they have faced, a vital conversation has started and sport is slowly changing, Tanner said.

"It's about time that sport has tackled and put in the spotlight the mental health issue, and especially the pressure in sport," she said in an interview. "At least

we're talking about it now."

Tanner knows first-hand what can happen when you're in the spotlight.

In the 1960s when she was an international superstar, "there were no sport psychologists, no education, no help or support," Tanner recalled.

Athletes didn't even know how the demands of sport could lead to psychological disorders or post-traumatic stress.

Nicknamed "Mighty Mouse" when she represented Canada in the 1968 Mexico City Summer Games, the five-foot-two Tanner carried the weight of a nation's sporting desires on her 17-year-old shoulders.

When she "only" won two silvers and one bronze,

Continued on Page 8



A video screen grab shows a float plane's emergency landing at NOTL's airport. DAN ELLSWORTH/FACEBOOK

Pilot makes 'masterful' emergency landing at Niagara District Airport

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The pilot of a six-seater float plane made an emergency landing at Niagara District Airport on Saturday.

The call came in at about 5:30 p.m. and was the first emergency landing signal in nearly three years. The plane's pilot indicated

the vehicle had lost one of its landing gear, but thanks to the pilot's skill and preparations by the airport, he was able to land safely.

The pilot was flying a Cessna T206 with amphibious floats. The airport was closed for two hours to deal with the emergency.

"We can be prepared, we can have all the services

Continued on Page 2

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St. Andrews Glen couple giving away anti-hate signs

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A St. Andrews Glen couple have been displaying and giving away anti-hate signs in their neighbourhood, saying there is never a wrong time to affirm that you stand against hateful ideologies.

"We just felt it was a statement that needed to be said. When you live in a neighbourhood as diverse as St. Andrews Glen, it's the right sign to put up," said Audrey Pellett.

The signs say "Hate has no home here" and feature images from various faiths and cultures.

Pellett and her partner George Webber ordered the signs from Ask Guy Design in Sarnia in July.

She said that no specific event prompted the purchase but rather she was motivated by overarching narratives around division locally and abroad.

"With everything that's been going on lately I just find that there is so much hate these days," she said.

"We all need to take a step back and say, 'No.'"

She cited the overwhelming negativity on social me-



George Webber and Audrey Pellett have been giving away "Hate has no home here signs" in the hopes of reinforcing ideas of acceptance and love in Niagara-on-the-Lake. SUPPLIED

dia sites such as Facebook as a motivating factor in making a public statement that decried intolerance.

"Hate begets hate," Pellett said, hoping her sign would accomplish the opposite.

A Virgil man's lawn sign stating "Proud of our traditional marriage" sparked

controversy in Niagara-on-the-Lake over the last few weeks, garnering wide attention on social media with some decrying the sign as homophobic and others defending it as an example of free expression.

Webber said there is no need to pussyfoot around when condemning hate.

"You've got to tell people what you stand for," he said.

"Everybody can assume but we are telling people that this is what we stand for. This is us. If you like it or you don't like it, this is us."

The signs were originally created by Oakville

resident Nandhini Rangan who commissioned them to protest the Halton Catholic District Schoolboard's refusal to fly the Pride flag at its schools this year.

All nine of the Catholic high schools in Halton flew the Pride flag independent of the school board's refusal and the signs have

been an Oakville staple ever since.

The NOTL couple said people have been coming up to the house to ask where they can get a sign of their own. Luckily, Pellett ordered extras.

"I've given them to people I don't know, I've given them to people I know," Pellett said.

"If someone says they like what it stands for we say, 'Here, take a sign,'" Webber added.

Pellett said she has one sign left and would be open to helping anyone order more if they want to pick up a few. She said that Ask Guy delivered the signs.

"If like-minded people would like to stand with us, then they can take a sign and put it up," said Webber.

The couple are aware they could be infringing on the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's bylaw prohibiting lawn signs.

"Until somebody says take it down, we'll just leave it up," Webber said.

Pellett hopes it is only a matter of time before she sees more public condemnations of hate.

"Citizens in St. Andrews Glen have taken to it," she said.

No one hurt in emergency landing at Niagara District Airport

Continued from Front Page

prepared in case something does go wrong," said Niagara District Airport chief executive officer Daniel Pilon.

But when it comes to emergency landings there is little an airport can do from the ground and all hope rests on the pilot's skill, he said

"The pilot did a masterful job of landing that plane on three wheels."

The flight originated in Port Huron, Mich. The pilot performed a touch-and-go at an airport in London, Ont., before heading to Niagara. During the touch-and-go landing one of the front landing gear was destroyed.



Niagara District Airport. EVAN SAUNDERS

Touch-and-go procedures are often part of pilot training as they allow students to practise many landings in succession. Pilon couldn't comment on the nature of the pilot's touch-and-go in this situation.

"It's eminently normal in aviation," he said.

Emergency landings are a rare occurrence at Niagara District Airport, with the last one occurring in 2018, Pilon said.

With the safe landing by

the pilot, Pilon appreciated the chance for his staff to practise emergency protocols.

"It's always good to have opportunities to work our emergency plans and it's absolutely best when we have the ability to work those plans when there's absolutely zero incident to anyone," he said.

"We're thankful at the end of the day that no one was hurt and everything worked out fine."

Honk Mobile parking pass a gouge to residents: Cheropita

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Council has approved a plan to pursue the creation of daily, weekly and monthly parking passes through Honk Mobile.

Approved in a close vote, some councillors viewed the move as an excuse to charge residents more money.

The plan was passed with the intent of creating a year-long pilot project to see how the passes are received by people.

"I do not agree with this," Coun. Wendy Cheropita said.

"We do not have a parking problem. Cities like Toronto, where they don't have enough space and people



A new parking pass is coming through Honk Mobile. SUPPLIED

don't have driveways, those places have parking problems. This is just a tax grab."

Coun. Allan Bisback defended the idea.

"I can support this because we're asking for a report to come forward before making an actual decision," he told council.

The debate was in response to residents in areas such as Niagara on the Green claiming the bylaw limiting street parking to 12-hour windows has been challenging and unfair.

Councillors nearly repealed that bylaw at a council meeting in May. It was defeated by a tie vote.

The Honk mobile parking permits would override the town bylaw, meaning that anyone with a permit can leave their car parked in the same area until the permit expires.

A report on the permits will be brought to council in the future.

Couns. Gary Burroughs, Sandra O'Connor, Erwin Wiens and Cheropita voted against the proposal.

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Mississagua and Queen is now all-way stop

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

An all-way stop and “bumpout” were installed at the intersection of Queen and Mississagua streets Tuesday as traffic calming measures.

Crews started work at 9 a.m. and had the intersection open by 3:30 p.m.

The pilot project aims to see traffic safety and flow increase but if further study shows the signs are ineffective then they will be removed, director of operations Sheldon Randall told The Lake Report.

“We have to make some observations based on whether it’s actually reduc-



Sheldon Randall, second from right and town staff check out the all-way stop newly installed at the Queen and Mississagua intersection. EVAN SAUNDERS

ing the (traffic) impact on the Chautauqua area or not,” Randall said.

“We’re just hoping we’re not causing more confusion.”

Randall said determining the intersection’s effect on traffic can be challenging due to the pandemic. Traffic

in town isn’t at the level it would have been pre-pandemic.

Another problem was the nature of traffic complaints in the Chautauqua area.

“We also don’t have a lot of historical data. I think most of the observations are anecdotal.”

He expressed concern that the full impact of the all-way stop can’t be understood until the Shaw Festival fully resumes its shows and the resulting traffic flow returns to the town.

If the pilot project is approved for permanent installation it will be tied in with future projects such as the reconstruction of Mississagua Street, Randall said.

“We’ll be designing next year so we’ll include any potential final designs into that,” he said.

The reconstruction of Mississagua Street is tentatively scheduled for 2022.

Randall expects the town will have a report on the impact of the all-way stop by the end of the fall.

Shaw staging plays indoors for first time since 2019

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Finally, more than 18 months after it last hit the stage, the Shaw Festival is officially resuming indoor shows this Saturday when “Sherlock Holmes and the Raven’s Curse” debuts at the Festival Theatre.

Staff at the Shaw said they were “buzzing with excitement” as preparations were finalized for the Holmes production, directed by mystery play expert Craig Hall.

While the Shaw did present a short indoor concert series “Songs for a Winter’s Night” last December, the last official indoor theatre shows were “Holiday Inn” and “A Christmas Carol” on Dec. 22, 2019.

The latest “Sherlock”



Craig Hall. SUPPLIED

production has been in previews at the Festival Theatre since July 23.

It stars Damien Atkins as Sherlock, Ric Reid as Dr. Watson and Claire Jullien as Mrs. Hudson.

The show boasts an extraordinary set and lighting design, the Shaw said in an announcement. It is sched-

uled to run until Oct. 10.

Other Shaw productions also are moving indoors.

The Royal George Theatre will stage “Charley’s Aunt” starting Aug. 8 and “Flush” beginning Aug. 17. Both are directed by Tim Carroll.

And “Trouble in Mind,” directed by Philip Akin, begins previews Aug. 8 at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre.

“The Devil’s Disciple,” directed by Eda Holmes, continues outdoors on the Nona Macdonald Stage in the Festival Theatre parking lot.

“A Short History of Niagara,” a 30-minute puppet theatre production, is on outdoors until Aug. 15.

Details of upcoming outdoor concerts and activities, plus the October to Decem-

ber run of “Desire Under the Elms,” and “A Christmas Carol” and “Holiday Inn” starting in November, will be announced later.

Other shows staged as part of Outdoors@TheShaw include: “Gatsby’s Jazz, Sonny’s Blues” (July 27 to Oct. 8) on the BMO Stage, “Fairground” (July 28 to Oct. 8) on the Festival Theatre grounds, “Kreutzer Sonata” (Aug. 26 to Oct. 9) on the Humeniuk Foundation Stage, “The Duke and Two Irene’s” (July 30 to Oct. 7) on the South Lawn Patio, “Shawground” (Aug. 19 to Oct. 6) on the Festival Theatre grounds and “Coffee Concerts” (Aug. 18 to Sept. 30) on the Humeniuk Foundation stage.

Show and ticket details are available at shawfest.com.

Good news: No COVID patients at Niagara Health

Staff
The Lake Report

Niagara Health has no COVID-19 patients in its hospitals for the first time since September 2020.

The health organization said having no COVID patients is a step in the right direction in getting through the pandemic.

“This is the result of the efforts and dedication of the entire Niagara Health

team,” said Linda Boich, executive lead in the Niagara COVID-19 Vaccination Task Force.

“We are grateful to them for their professionalism and commitment to our patients and their families, which are making a positive difference during a difficult time,” said Boich.

“We’re also thankful to our partners and our community for their support and efforts throughout the pandemic.”

Niagara Health said the milestone also reflects the success COVID-19 vaccines are having on limiting the transmission of the virus in the region.

“We are getting closer to putting the pandemic behind us as more people get vaccinated,” chief of staff Dr. Johan Viljoen said in a news release.

“Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is critical to preventing a fourth wave and ending this pan-

demic. We encourage anyone who has not yet been vaccinated with a first and/or second dose to do so.”

The Seymour-Hannah vaccination clinic in St. Catharines is open for walk-ins and for booked appointments. There are also a number of other opportunities to get vaccinated in the community. More details about clinics can be found at www.niagarahealth.on.ca/site/vaccination-clinic.

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Editor-In-Chief: Richard Harley
Managing Editor: Kevin MacLean
Publisher: Niagara Now
Design & Layout: Richard Harley
Advertising: Rob Lamond, Lisa Jeffrey
Contributors: Evan Saunders, Jessica Maxwell, Jill Troyer, Tim Taylor, Bernard Lansbergen, Denise Ascenzo, Linda Fritz, Dr. William Brown, Brian Marshall, NOTL Museum, Kyra Simone, Gail Kendall, Norm Arsenaault, Patty Garriock, Steve Hardaker, Ross Robinson, Tim Carroll, NOTL Writers' Circle, Penny-Lynn Cookson, Janice White and many more members of the NOTL community

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COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases: 2
Region active cases: 49
Region deaths: 420
Region total cases: 16,354
Region resolved cases: 15,885

*August 4 data per Niagara Region Public Health



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are." - Patty Garriock

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Email:

Letters: editor@niagaranow.com
 Story Ideas: editor@niagaranow.com
 Advertising: advertising@niagaranow.com

Phone

Newsroom: 905-359-2270
 Advertising Department: 905-246-4671

Office Address

496 Mississagua St., NOTL, Ontario, Canada.

Mailing Address

PO Box 724, Niagara-on-the-Lake, L0S1J0

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Editorial

Public information: Part 3

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

Obtaining even basic information from Niagara Regional Police about incidents they are investigating or ones in which charges have been laid can mean the public never knows who was accused, or killed or injured.

This police practice can lead to some odd decisions. For example, on July 21 the police issued a release after a truck in Port Colborne crashed into three other vehicles.

A man from Niagara-on-the-Lake was charged with leaving the scene (a Criminal Code offence) and three counts under the Highway Traffic Act (including careless driving).

The accused's name and age were published in a news release sent to all media and the information has been widely publicized.

But in the arguably much more serious case, the death of Matthew Wilson, struck by a pickup truck as he walked along Lakeshore Road, the name of the accused remains under wraps as far as the police are concerned. Because the driver is facing a non-Criminal Code charge, the police have refused to name him.

(That did not stop The Lake Report from weeks later eventually discovering and publishing the driver's name, after people in the community, concerned about the case, told us who was accused and court documents confirmed the information.)

On July 23, the regular



"name and shame" list of people in Niagara accused of impaired driving offences was issued. Some media and online outlets publish those lists. We do not.

But among the names was a man who is a Niagara police officer. While other police services have been known to publicly announce when one of their own is accused of a serious offence, that did not happen in this case.

But someone in the community always knows – and a St. Catharines newspaper was tipped about the charge and published a story about it. The officer will have his day in court and the public will know the outcome. Transparency and openness win out.

The philosophy of clamping a privacy Cone of Silence on information carries over to identifying victims of fatalities or serious mishaps.

Lukas Smith was killed while out cycling with his son on the evening of Sunday, July 11. The police issued a release, not identifying the victim, the next morning at 11:42 a.m.

Our reporter found out less than an hour later that Lukas Smith, a gregarious, adventuresome father and husband, was the victim of that tragedy.

This led to interviews

with family and friends and the publication of a heartwarming story about the man Lukas Smith was.

That helped the greater community grieve and mourn a young man, gone too soon.

When we asked a few days afterward why the police would not release Lukas Smith's name (even though we already knew he was the victim), a spokesperson responded they couldn't do so under "MFFIPA" – the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy – "for privacy reasons. The victim maintains a right to privacy in death."

We profoundly disagree with that selective interpretation of the province's privacy legislation. Having read the law and the sections that apply to law enforcement, and consulted with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner, we learned there is discretion and latitude granted to police in the act regarding what they can and should not release. And courts have backed that up in several cases. Society's interests and individual interests must be considered in making a determination.

Niagara's interpretation of the statute is narrow and leans toward being opaque rather than transparent.

Surely, the many other police forces across Ontario that routinely release the names of victims in major cases are not all violating the privacy act, are they?

Even nine days later the tragedy, one day after Lukas Smith's public funeral and long after our lengthy story about him had been published and read by thousands, we asked the police for an update on the investigation.

In our message, we mentioned that Lukas Smith was the victim. That prompted an officer to dutifully remind us, "It is my understanding we have not confirmed or released the identity of any of the persons involved in that incident on Irvine. As such please do not take this email as confirmation of the involvement of the name of the person you included by the NRPS."

We respect the principle the police department is invoking but this whole scenario feels bizarrely Kafkaesque.

Yes, there is most definitely some information that Niagara police can and should keep under wraps. However, as the courts have made clear and privacy legislation states, there are ample instances in which individual and societal interests should be weighed – and society can and should be entrusted to know what has happened in the community.

Convenient blanket bans are an easy, but more troublesome, road to travel.

Next: Where do we go from here?

editor@niagaranow.com

Pedal Pub should be run out of town

Dear editor:

It is extremely disappointing that town council is allowing the Pedal Pub to continue operations on our very busy roads in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Coun. Clare Cameron asks about the legality of having fun, listening to music in this community, and suggesting that council "put on our big boy and big girl pants."

I am sorry, but those comments do not even deserve a response. Another comment was about attracting younger visitors to NOTL. Wow, so the answer is to bribe them with alcohol and they will come. Heaven help us.

The comment about the closing of the Pedal Pub having a "ripple effect" that will impact the

NOTL economy, is truly laughable. If the NOTL economy is dependent on this "mobile bar" we are all in serious trouble.

Mark my words, it will only be a matter of time before council is debating a request for a "mobile marijuana pedal operation."

Thank goodness for Coun. Gary Burroughs who continues his support

of banning the Pedal Pub, "regardless of the blasts from social media."

The time has come for council to decide that our public roads are for vehicles – to get from point A to point B – not a party venue.

When is the next municipal election?

Buddy Andres
 NOTL



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Developer is entitled to appeal ruling – and let's be **patient** with gateway plan

Dear editor:
You know how much we all enjoy your letters to the editor, as sometimes they can be quite entertaining, such as letters in your July 29 edition from Christopher Allen (“Show us more design options for NOTL gateway project” and Derek Collins (“Real estate values have soared, so why does developer deserve compensation?”)).

Mr. Collins was taking umbrage with Niagara-on-the-Lake developer Rainer Hummel being successful at what he does.

In Canada, the legal system permits Mr. Hummel to appeal a court decision, a right in our judicial system.

Why would Mr. Collins feel that an entrepreneur would have to explain a

rational decision to anyone? Why would Mr. Collins object to Mr. Hummel appealing a suspect decision by our town council taking what many might consider a political action which directly impacted on his ability to carry out his business?

And as for Mr. Allen's comments on the proposed NOTL gateway, for a picture that he admits

he cannot clearly see he goes to great lengths to describe this object.

Why not let the process take its course and give the planners some semblance of support. Mr. Allen's multitude of questions deserve answers, but please give us a chance to review the design without premature prejudices.

Derek Insley
NOTL

Talk of the town

Experts bring **valuable insights** to ‘traditional marriage’ sign controversy

Dear editor:
I really appreciated Richard Harley's July 29 article, “Is it hateful? Experts talk about ‘traditional mar-

riage’ sign,” addressing some of the responses to the “Celebrating our traditional marriage” sign in Virgil.

By interviewing people

knowledgeable about the impact of language on marginalized groups, you will hopefully bring new understanding to the con-

versation.

This is greatly needed. So, thanks again.

Kim Ort
NOTL

Rainbow crosswalk, Pride debate is **divisive**

Dear editor:
I am writing about your coverage of a Virgil man's “Celebrating our traditional marriage” sign (July 8) and your July 29 follow-up story, “Is it hateful? Experts talk about ‘traditional marriage’ sign.”

This whole issue has become a matter of division among the NOTL population, mainly through the aggressive and self-interest efforts of Jordon Williams, who seems to feel entitled to use public property by rainbow painting a crosswalk and benches in a stunt to publicize his own stated agenda.

This is done without

regard for the many others who may not agree with this idea and by The Lake Report in its ceaseless and biased promotion of his rights, without regard for others.

The long-winded and often vague and unrelated comments on hate from your experts are of limited value in this controversy. They are presumably not taxpaying residents of NOTL, who form the majority opinion. This collective opinion is seen as being of greater local importance than those of the distant experts.

To some people, the Virgil sign may represent

hate, while others do not see it that way at all and do not regard it as a form of intolerance but as a direct response to the bias, aggressiveness and suggestions of hatred as mentioned above.

Hate is often used by certain groups as a weapon to put those who may disagree with a viewpoint on the defensive, even when hate does not exist. It is a word often used, just as the words inclusivity and diversity are.

These words, it seems to me, are used when it is seen as beneficial to a group that, while professing to be otherwise, sees itself as exclusive and not

allied to any visible minority (another publication on July 21 contained a clear example of this). Neither word is ever given a precise meaning.

We have many different minority groups in this country, which can be considered a form of diversity in itself.

In turn a similar diversity can be found in each of these groups, although I doubt they have much interest in the debate concerning traditional marriage or the attempt by some to connect this to a form of hate.

Derek Collins
NOTL

Signs and **freedom of expression** in NOTL

Dear editor:
In recent weeks there have been at least two articles in The Lake Report relating to the NOTL sign bylaw.

The first involved signs in Chautauqua protesting the parking problems on the area's narrow laneways.

The second involved a sign in Virgil celebrating the couple's heterosexual marriage.

In both articles Lord Mayor Betty Disero was quoted as indicating that the signs contravened the town's sign bylaw and that they

would have to be removed.

The breadth of the sign bylaw catches election-sized signs erected in residential areas encouraging passing motorists to “Please Slow Down” – unless a fee of \$80 is paid for a permit under the bylaw.

Such is the price in Niagara-on-the-Lake for exercising your Charter-protected right to freedom of expression.

Beware. Big Mother is watching you.

Ron Fritz
Queenston

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Youth advisory council had a busy year **building committees**



Janvi Ganatra
Special to The Lake Report



NOTL's Youth Advisory Council. SOURCED

While following COVID-19 regulations, adjusting to bi-weekly virtual meetings and pivoting our initiatives to online formats, it has been a busy year for the Lord Mayor's youth advisory council.

The council is a youth-led group striving to give a voice to the youth of Niagara-on-the-Lake and has been encouraging youth involvement within the community since 2017.

Our group consists of myself and 14 driven members, each bringing their unique perspective, ideas and enthusiasm to our virtual meetings. We also have

Lauren Kruitbosch, the town's community engagement co-ordinator, and adult mentors Lord Mayor Betty Disero, local business-woman Maria Mavridis, Catherine Goerzen from the Rotary Club and NOTL resident Amy Casey.

We have divided the group into three subcommittees, including outreach, advocacy and wellness, with five members and an adult mentor on each.

Outreach focuses on raising community awareness and organizing events for

youth enjoyment; advocacy refers to local issues, including environmental concerns; and wellness promotes mental, physical and emotional wellness among local youth.

As we wrap up this term and take a break for the summer, here are some of our accomplished projects and initiatives from the past year.

In January, to stress the importance of the stay-at-home NOTL philosophy, we produced a COVID-19 public service announcement outlining and encouraged young residents to

follow lockdown guidelines. The announcement also included suggestions for staying occupied and well at home during the difficult times of isolation.

Over the years, the youth council has had the continuous support of NOTL's Rotary Club, with assistance in funding, resources and mentorship. In February 2021, we partnered with Rotary to officially form an Interact Group, a community-based service club for youth.

We all understand the importance of taking care

of our mental health and wellness, especially with the new challenges of isolation, physical distancing, stress and uncertainty presented by the ongoing pandemic.

One of our annual events, the Mental Health and Wellness Conference for Grade 8 students from all area schools, was released on the youth council's YouTube channel in May as a series of videos.

These videos were created in partnership with local mental health professionals Dr. Ron Clavier and registered dietitian Melissa Dunlop. This year, our videos focused on topics addressing mental health issues facing young people during the pandemic.

Throughout spring, we hosted live virtual events via Zoom to foster community engagement and create an opportunity to participate in an event for pure enjoyment. We organized two virtual trivia-style game nights, one for youth and one for families, with fun prizes for our winners.

We also partnered with

the NOTL Public Library to host a youth paint night where participants learned how to paint a Van Gogh-inspired starry night.

In June, we collaborated with over a dozen area businesses and establishments to put together 100 "You Got This" bags for local youth and hosted a drive-by pickup at the NOTL Community Centre. These free bags, thanks to our donors, were filled with fun trinkets and gifts to reach out to NOTL youth with the intention of boosting spirits and promoting overall wellness.

The youth council is a great way to be actively involved within the community and connect with NOTL's young people.

If you are aged 13 to 18 and live in Niagara-on-the-Lake, you can apply to join the advisory council. Applications open in the early fall each year. Follow @lmyacnotl on Instagram for the most recent updates..

Janvi Ganatra was 2020-21 chair of the Lord Mayor's youth advisory council.

Short Term Rental Compliance Program






Did you know? The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake launched a new compliance program on July 12, 2021, to streamline the enforcement of local rules and regulations for Short Term Rentals.

Granicus Host Compliance, a third-party service that specializes in helping local governments manage Short Term Rental compliance and enforcement, provides a 24/7 hotline and online system whereby members of the public can easily report Short Term Rentals that may not be compliant with the Town's Short Term Rental By-law.

How to lodge a complaint: Visit secure.hostcompliance.com/tips/type to fill out an online complaint form or call 435-STR-HELP (435-787-4357) (toll-free) or 289-210-7226 to speak directly to a Granicus operator.

Visit notl.com/content/short-term-rentals for more information about Niagara-on-the-Lake's new Short Term Rental Compliance Program.



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NOTICE OF PROCUREMENT

This Notice of Procurement is to advise potential Respondents that the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is conducting a procurement process as described below.

Procurement name:	Request for Expressions of Interest for the use of the former Niagara-on-the-Lake Hospital site 176 Wellington Street
Procurement number	16
Bidding documents:	Bidding documents are available online at https://notl.bidsandtenders.ca
Description of procurement:	<p>The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is seeking expressions of interest from qualified Respondents who are interested in developing the former Niagara-on-the-Lake Hospital site located at 176 Wellington Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake.</p> <p>This 3.1-acre property offers a unique opportunity for development located in the core of the Town's historic Old Town. The site is located in close proximity to the Town's main commercial district and Shaw Festival theatre. Parks Canada, which is valued for its history and park-like features is also directly adjacent to the property. The historic setting of the property along the Niagara River is steps away from tourist attractions, shops, and iconic landmarks such as the Old Court House, Cenotaph, Simcoe Park, and Queen's Royal Park Gazebo and are some of the most easily recognizable structures in southwestern Ontario.</p> <p>This opportunity presents a unique chance for Respondents to develop a significantly sized lot in a highly desirable area of Old Town.</p>
Language(s) permitted for Supplier responses:	English
Contact for more information:	<p>Questions related to this bid are to be submitted to the RFP contact (Victoria Steele, Executive Assistant & Communications Officer to the CAO & Lord Mayor) through the Bidding System only, by clicking "Submit a Question" button for this specific bid opportunity at https://notl.bidsandtenders.ca.</p> <p>Questions and requests for clarification from the Respondents are to be received by the Town by 2 p.m. on August 31, 2021.</p>

Young NOTLers say getting vaccinated is the best way to resume normal life

Molly Bowron
Special to The Lake Report

Six young Niagara-on-the-Lake residents who have received the shot agree that getting fully vaccinated is imperative to going back to normal and ending the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I think that the vaccine is the only way to get life back to normal," said Carrie Robinson, a 21-year-old student at Bishop's University in Lennoxville, Que.

Niagara Region's public health department last week urged youth, especially those 12 to 17, to get vaccinated as soon as possible. To be ready for school in September, students would need their first shot by Aug. 3, the region said.

Those who have their second dose by Aug. 24 would be fully vaccinated when school begins Sept. 7, public health said.

Having life back to pre-pandemic norms is "basically the only thing I care about," said Robinson.

"Being able to see people again and being able to go to school, in-person courses and getting everybody back to normal life."

Sixteen-year-old Olivia Dubois, who lives in the Garrison Village area, is fully vaccinated, as is her sister Emilie, 21.

"I got the vaccine because it helps stop the spread," Olivia said. "A lot of people



From left, top row: Annika Johnson, Carrie Robinson, Coner Newman. Bottom row: Emilie Dubois, Josh Kuhn and Olivia Dubois. SUPPLIED

I know around my age are vaccinated."

Emilie said she thinks "it's important that everyone gets it. Well, everybody that's eligible to get it should get it."

Like many people in her age group, Annika Johnson longs for the way life was pre-pandemic.

She acknowledged the COVID vaccines were developed quickly, but said, "I think that although it was fast, it's something that we can trust."

The 21-year-old Chautauqua resident is a nursing student and said she has struggled with online schooling, wants things to go back to normal and trusts that medical professionals are doing the best they can.

Working at Balzac's on King Street, Emilie Dubois said she has encountered customers who disagree with the vaccines and the protocols that are laid out to protect everyone.

Some people "don't seem to be taking this pandemic as seriously," she said, noting she has crossed paths with anti-maskers.

In one incident at the NOTL coffee shop a "this lady and her son came in and they didn't have masks on. They asked if we minded serving them without masks."

"It's not like they had a medical condition. We even offered to give them masks and they just didn't want to wear them."

She also is worried that some people are no longer

following the rules, or respecting other's safety.

It all comes down to people doing their part so life as we once knew it can resume, she said.

Josh Kuhn, 21, said he feels strongly about people getting the shot and following protocols. He has had both his shots.

"I do believe the vaccine is essential for us to return back to society and to function," the NOTL resident said.

The way Virgil's Coner Newman sees it, getting vaccinated is the best chance at having everyone get back to our old routines.

Newman, 21, has been vaccinated and said, "If you get it, you are playing a part in things going back to normal, which is obviously what people want."

NOTL cracks down on illegal rental homes

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has launched a short-term rental compliance program, offering 24/7 support for complaints against licensed rentals in town.

The program, administered by Granicus, a company that specializes in monitoring rental units, will also help the town crack down on unlicensed operators.

"(Granicus') access to information is much better



SOURCED

than the town's accessed information on advertising," Lord Mayor Betty Disero said in an interview.

The company can cross-reference listed short-term rentals with the town's list

of registered rentals.

A report by Granicus in March said there could be over 200 unlicensed rentals operating in the municipality.

Granicus can put together packages and reports regarding specific rentals with documents supplied by residents and people registering complaints. This will help with pinpointing unlicensed operators and bringing them into compliance, according to Disero.

The program lets people call a hotline number or use an online system to report complaints about bylaw

violations too Granicus.

The complaints are forwarded to the manager of the rental in question, who then has 45 minutes to respond or face fines, the town said in announcing the new program.

Fines will vary depending on the nature of the complaint, Disero said.

"It's not going to replace our bylaw officers. It's to help improve the quality of service that we offer through our bylaw department."

See the town's website for more details on the program.

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Landscape and Memory



Don't miss Penny-Lynn Cookson's virtual lecture series "Landscape and Memory," which runs Aug. 4 to 25 at the Pumphouse Arts Centre. Registration is free.


niagarapumphouse.ca/programs

Book launch

A book launch of Albatross Hall, a historical fiction novel, to take place Saturday, Aug. 7, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the NOTL Museum.

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Twinning of Garden City Skyway will cast shadow over NOTL

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Long-planned construction of a twin span of the Garden City Skyway is tentatively due to begin in 2024, says the Ontario Ministry of Transportation.

The new bridge, to be built north of the old skyway, will affect roads and businesses in southern Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The existing skyway will remain open during construction but will be closed for repairs after the new one opens.

Once repairs are done, the new skyway span will carry Toronto-bound traffic while old

bridge will be for Niagara-bound traffic, with four lanes on each bridge, ministry adviser Kimberly Truong told The Lake Report in an email.

The work will include maintenance to the substructure and replacement of the concrete deck. The original steel girders will be retained, Truong said.

Niagara Stone Road, Queenston Road, Taylor Road, Coon Road, Dieppe Road, York Road and the Welland Canal Parkway Trail will need to be realigned to “accommodate the new highway right-of-way and bridge structure,” said ministry spokesperson Natasha Tremblay.

Businesses along the construction path will be affected and some will be bought out by the province. All affected properties have already been contacted, Tremblay said.

The plan will go through several phases before construction begins. Preliminary design and planning have been completed and the next step is the detailed design phase.

The project is up for tender and until a construction company has been chosen the exact cost will not be known, Tremblay said.

The skyway was completed in 1963 at a cost of \$20 million, about \$180 million with inflation



The Garden City Skyway is getting an upgrade. EVAN SAUNDERS

today, according to a 1964 article by the New York Times.

A report by engineering

firm MMM Group Ltd. in 2014 said the original skyway would be in need of replacement by 2025.

Are you affected by the new skyway plan? Write us at editor@niagaranow.com and let us know how.

Elaine Tanner reflects on Olympic stress

Continued from Front Page

the media and public criticism over the lack of a gold medal sent her into a decades-long spiral of mental anguish and PTSD.

She was barely out of the pool in Mexico when the “Why did you lose?” questions started. The fact the entire Canadian Olympic contingent in 1968 only won two other medals didn’t seem to matter to many people.

After three decades of dealing with the aftermath of not meeting a nation’s expectations, that she had “let everyone down,” Tanner welcomes the new era of high-performance athletes speaking out about protecting their mental health.

She credits organizations like Swim Canada for preparing and educating athletes about how to handle the pressures and expectations.

“I’m so glad that these girls like Simone and Naomi are saying now that ‘My mental health is just as important as my physical health,’” she said. “Athletes are just human beings and we always have our moments of self-doubt.”

Tanner, now 70, has authored a children’s book, “Monkey Guy and the Cosmic Fairy,” and



Former Olympian Elaine Tanner now lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake. SUPPLIED

also has written about her post-Olympic struggles and successes on her websites, Quest Beyond Gold and elainetanner.ca.

She speaks of the “hidden gifts” that came from all the adversity she faced.

“If I hadn’t gone through the struggles that I went through over the decades after the Olympics, I wouldn’t be the person I am today. I wouldn’t have the wisdom I have today. And the gratitude and the peace that I have today, of just of who I’ve become.”

“I built myself up from the outside in, but learning about life and maturing and becoming wise is knowing that you’re far more than

One of the problems with seeing yourself solely as an athlete or lawyer or artist, “or whatever you identify with in life, is the danger that you become one-dimensional. And that all of your self-worth rises or falls on that performance,” she said.

But humans are multi-dimensional and we must embrace that, she added.

“The Olympics itself has become so much bigger. It’s much more commercialized and you can get swept up in that current and you lose yourself,” Tanner noted.

that, and that you need to build yourself up from the inside out.”

She said she was just chatting the night before with fellow former Olympian Nancy Greene Raine about how, despite progress, sport still has a long way to go, especially the Olympics, “because it’s a different kind of monster.”

“The Olympics itself has become so much bigger. It’s much more commercialized and you can get swept up in that current and you lose yourself,” Tanner noted.

“But we have to remember that really we started the sport because we found joy in doing it. We can’t lose that joy. We can’t lose that authenticity,” she added.

“Once we create a brand for ourselves, we can get caught up in that branding. You can actually lose yourself in the branding of it and you begin to think, ‘Who am I really?’ You can’t lose touch with your real self.”

She urged parents to avoid living vicariously through their children’s exploits, whatever they are.

Rather, parents need to teach kids they are far more than what they perform, “that there’s so many chapters of our life, that swimming or track or hockey or whatever it is that you want to do, it’s a couple of chapters in your life. But it’s not your whole story,” Tanner said.

And when you fall short or don’t succeed, “process and validate your feelings,” don’t ignore them, she said. “It’s a lot like going through grief or loss.”

Because “it’s what you give. In the end, it’s not what you take. If you can become the best person that you can be, and act with kindness and compassion, and learn about love, that’s really what life is all about.”

Tanner won 3 of Canada’s 5 total medals in 1968

Over the years, Olympic athletes keep pushing themselves to go faster, higher, stronger.

When Elaine Tanner won silver in 1968 in the 100-metre backstroke in Mexico City, her time of 1:06.70 was exactly one second faster than the gold medallist’s swim four years earlier in Tokyo.

Tanner’s silver in the 200-metre backstroke clocked in at 2:27.40. According to the Olympic statistics archive, that is the first time women competed in the 200 backstroke.

This year in Tokyo, Canadian Kylie Masse took silver in both those races, swimming 57.72 in the 100 and 2:05.42 in the 200. So, 53 years after Tanner’s swims, times continue to fall steadily.

In Mexico City, Tanner and her teammates also took bronze in the 4x100-metre freestyle relay. Their time was about 10 seconds behind the Olympic record set by the Australians this year.

Her performances in 1968 gave Canada’s “Mighty Mouse” three Olympic medals. The entire Canadian contingent, across all sports, only won two other medals.



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Marmitons dinner celebrates Food Day Canada

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Food Day Canada is growing across the country. On Saturday, Les Marmitons Niagara, an exclusive men's cooking group, held a celebration of food and things Canadian by preparing a meal for about 35 people.

The day started with Marmitons (which means cooks in French) picking fresh local veggies from the garden of Ryan Crawford, owner of Ruffino's Pasta Bar & Grill and BarBea. Also served up was Canadian lamb and chicken cooked over a peach wood fire.

Mike Berlis, president of the Niagara chapter of Les Marmitons, said it was an opportunity for the group to get creative with fresh local ingredients.

"The whole idea of farm to table has been promoted by most of the local chefs, and so we buy into that," Berlis said, noting the bounty of fresh ingredients grown in Niagara.

That was the emphasis behind Food Day Canada by founder Anita Stewart, "plus the fact that, obviously, this year it meant more because we haven't been able to get together physically for a year and a half," he said.

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Jeff Stewart, whose mother Anita started Food Day Canada in 2009 (evolving from another event called the World's Largest Barbecue), was touring southern Ontario Saturday to stop in at as many Food Day events as he could squeeze in.

"It's been a heck of a run for the last week or so," said Stewart, who has been celebrating and promoting Food Day Canada more than ever this year in honour of his mother, who died in October 2020.

He started his day with a farm breakfast at the Grand River Agricultural Society in Elora, where they brought out harvesters and tractors to fly the Food Day Canada flag.

From there he headed to the Elora farmers' market where there was a tribute to his mother.

"One of the local instructors in the culinary school there was smoking up some Arctic char from the University of Guelph Research Station, and they're making a whole bunch of pizzas and stuff."

The pizzas were made from whatever was fresh at the farmers' market.

"They've built a great big oven down there as well too. We sort of call it mom's home oven."

From there he headed down to the Woolly Pub, near University of Guelph, where his mother was a food laureate. They were serving up a quinoa with Lake Erie perch, with some meats from Vale-riete Market & Butchery.

His last stop was in Niagara at Crawford's farm for the Marmitons dinner. He said the whole experience really showcased Canadian cuisine and the connection of Canadian foods to the industry.

"It connects people to the land and connects people to the people who are on the land, providing so much for us and that's one of the (reasons) that we're so lucky to be here in Canada," Stewart said.

"It's the connection back to all the pieces of the chain of our food system ... and a lot of that is credit to the great people who are from the farm, all the way through to our chefs putting food on our tables."

Really, Food Day Canada is about realizing what we as Canadians have available to us, he said.

"I'm so grateful to be here in this part of the world enjoying this, just being in the moment with good friends and good family and you know just soaking it up. The only thing that would make it better is if mom was here, but you know, she's here in spirit."

Stewart's three brothers have been keeping her tradition alive and stronger than ever. One brother, Brad Stewart, was also on a food journey in the Gatineau area, while his brothers Mark and Paul were celebrating in their own ways in Vancouver Island.

Another chef Stewart knows, Josh Crowe of Tav-

erne Monkland in Montreal even got a tattoo with the name Anita on it.

"I had to call him like, 'Josh, Seriously, what's going on here?' And he's like, 'Yeah, I got this tattoo this morning for your mom so anytime I shake anybody's hand, and they look down and they see Anita written across my wrist, I can tell him what she meant to me.'"

His mom mentored Crowe and helped connect him "to some great people," Stewart said.

"Mom was always a great connector, and it was really all about bringing people together to celebrate the bounty that we have here in the north, and also study and learn and research about what we actually have here," he said.

"As Canadians, maybe we're humble, maybe we're really polite, but it takes somebody outside of Canada to say, 'You know what, that's special.' And mom was always great at pointing out all the special things that we have here."

The social media accounts for Food Day Canada have more than 50,000 followers, leading to "a mammoth engine of things happening around us," Stewart said.

"Twitter and Instagram is off the charts today and Facebook is just popping up with all this stuff, and it's always other chefs saying, 'Oh yeah I got this ingredient over here' — you know, I had no idea that we're doing organic wasabi here in Vancouver Island in Canada. And it's some of the best wasabi in the world. And there's all these little farms and farmers doing really innovative things that we wouldn't necessarily know about unless people were talking about it and amplifying their voices. And that's what Food Day Canada does."

Stewart sang the praises of Canadian food producers.

"When you pick a tomato ripe in July or August off the vine, and you taste that tomato, that's not a January tomato shipped in on a plane from Israel — no offense to Israeli tomatoes, they're sometimes all you can get — but we've got thriving industries now and



Les Marmitons Niagara spent the afternoon prepping fresh garden-inspired sides for a chicken and lamb dinner to celebrate Food Day Canada. The dinner party also took a garden tour before sitting down for an outdoor meal. RICHARD HARLEY PHOTOS

the hot house industry here has just taken off," he said.

"And kudos to them for being able to figure out how we can have supplies of things like cucumbers and peppers and tomatoes year-round — local, fresh — and some of the ingenuity of the Canadian food system. There's some brilliant people doing some brilliant work."

The meal on Saturday was different than a typical Les Marmitons event, which usually sees members follow a recipe and menu by a chef. This time it

was more of a "free for all," Berlis said, with Crawford guiding them on which crops were prime and ready to be used.

He said the event was such a success, they're considering making it an annual celebration of Food Day Canada.

Typically, using local ingredients is important to the Marmitons, he said.

"Even if it's done in a more formalized setting in the kitchen we like to know which butcher he's using and why, and which farmer he's using for that particular

zucchini or those particular plants and so on," Berlis said.

"I think the other part of the beauty of this area is that we have so many options available, in all the farms, fruit farms, vegetable farms. The freshness is completely different to somebody who's not as fortunate to be in the area," he added.

"If you have to truck it for five hours and then you get it the next day in a store, that's very different to being able to pick it and have it that particular day."



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NOTL artist fundraises for women's programs

Jessica Maxwell
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake artist Filomena Pisano is donating about 10 per cent of the proceeds from her new art project to women's initiatives.

As part of the effort to fundraise and support her art, the mixed media artist took her favourite painting from her entire collection, "Frida Number 3," and printed a high-quality, exclusive run of 250 pieces to be sold for \$250 each.

"Frida' was professional scanned. The technology is amazing," Pisano said. "Each mark is so vivid, full of colour, my strokes are visible. I can barely tell the print from the original."

She was inspired by famous Mexican painter Frida Kahlo and by many of her own life experiences.

Pisano said it has been a blessing for her to release the pieces and once all of them are sold she will be

donating \$5,000 to Gillian's Place women's shelter and \$2,000 to Moon Time Sisters, a program that helps young women in northern communities across Ontario and Saskatchewan access menstrual products.

"'Frida Number 3' is a reminder for all of us to bless one another whenever we can," Pisano said.

The original artwork was scanned and giclée printed on archival paper. With the process, ink is sprayed on to mimic the actual texture of the original painting rather than a typical ink jet printing process.

Pisano then wax-sealed them by hand to preserve them, provide texture and making them look as much like the original as possible.

So far 20 of the limited-edition prints have been sold, some travelling as far as Alberta.

Anyone looking to purchase a piece and support the project can contact Pisano through her website at www.pisano.art.



Filomena Pisano stands over her limited edition prints with the wax she uses to preserve them. JESSICA MAXWELL

Residents crowd NOTL Museum for annual treasure sale

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's annual Treasure Sale and Pig Roast fundraiser was a smashing success on Aug. 2, raising more than \$4,600.

People were lined up around the block before the event started to support their local museum and witness the unveiling of its long-awaited addition, the Tiny Museum.

"It certainly feels good to be supporting the museum again," NOTL resident Joe Baxter said as she rifled through the copious treasures on display.

"I keep picking stuff up and I don't know what to get," she said.

Assistant curator and educational programmer Shawna Butts said it was the busiest treasure sale the museum has ever had.

Museum managing director Sarah Kaufman was shocked at the turnout.

"I am overwhelmed by



Droves of residents stand in line to get their chance to buy books and treasures on Monday. EVAN SAUNDERS

the support the community is giving us today. I just wanted to officially say thank you so much to everyone for coming out," she said.

"We've had tough times through COVID-19 and it's really heartwarming to see the community come out and support us in this way."

The isolation of the pandemic drew people out who have not visited the museum for a while.

"I hadn't been here in so long. I live in Niagara-on-the-Lake but I haven't been to the museum in years,"

Sylvia Angelkötter said.

"When I heard this was happening I said, 'Let's go.'"

Not only was the sale good for individuals to get out of the house and support the museum, it was a benefit for a community long shuttered by pandemic restrictions, NOTL resident Chris Girard said.

Girard got her hands on a beautiful necklace that was part of the jewelry display. The allure of the treasure sale was too much for her to resist.

"This is my first time

here and I've lived in Niagara-on-the-Lake for 12 years," she said.

"Shame on you," volunteer Judy Thornton teased.

Showing up to purchase treasures wasn't the only way the museum received community support.

Almost all the items on display had been donated by NOTL residents, with a few pieces of the museum's own collection out as well.

Kaufman emphasized the generosity of the donations.

"People might say, 'Oh it's a garage sale.' It's not a garage sale, it's a treasure sale. People donated some really nice stuff," she said.

Items included historical books, crystal glassware, silver cutlery and cups, jewelry, paintings and a myriad of knickknacks and decorative pieces.

The unveiling of the Tiny Museum also went over smoothly.

"It's our first time that we've actually been able to use it," Kaufman said.

It was completed in May 2020 but the pandemic pre-

vented the museum from putting it to use until the treasure sale, she said.

The trailer-mounted Tiny Museum is a replica of the museum and features a rotating exhibit that the museum changes to cater to the areas and events that it is taken to.

The museum hopes to bring it out to schools, villages and events such as Canada Day and the many fruit festivals that (usually) take place across the municipality.

If they were doing an event in St. Davids, for example, the inside would become an exhibit of the village's history, Kaufman said.

The Tiny Museum's latest exhibit is called "People of Niagara" and includes an array of displays featuring Indigenous people in Niagara, loyalist history and the Syrian refugees who called NOTL home in the 2010s.

"It's amazing. Whoever built it is a master," Sylvia Captein said after examin-

ing the Tiny Museum exhibit.

"It feels much more spacious than it looks and they can just change the theme to whatever. It's amazing."

Exhibit designer Amanda Balyk said she drew inspiration for the exhibits in the Tiny Museum from her work as a teacher.

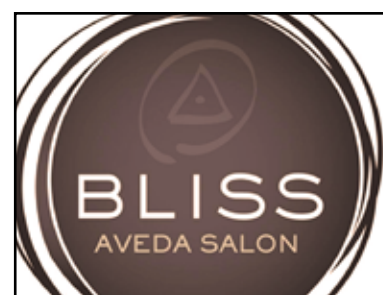
"I really asked myself what I would want my students to know and what would I want out of a museum. Then I consulted some teachers and planned accordingly," she said.

That careful planning and attention to education was not missed by visitors.

"It's an educational device that is so, so fun," Dee Travette said.

The museum is working on a tiny exhibit featuring the history of the Canada Games, which are scheduled for the Niagara region next year, with sailing and tennis events in NOTL.

"We're working with Brock University and Canada Games to develop something," Balyk said.



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Ambiguity in reopening plan leaves wedding vendor confused

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Anne Just wasn't quite sure whether she's allowed to have 100 people or 225 people attend her wedding events.

On one hand, Step 3 of the province's reopening plan says social gatherings are capped at 100 people.

However, further into the document, it says outdoor gatherings for meeting and event spaces, as well as food or drink establishments with dance facilities, are permitted to have 75 per cent capacity, or 5,000 people (whichever is less).

Just has been seeking clarification from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake on the issue since Ontario moved to Step 2 at the end of June. Those rules also had contradictions that made it difficult to understand.

She describes the issue as a "quagmire" of poor interpretations of ambiguous legislation, which has harmed the business and clients of Kurtz Orchards Weddings on the Niagara Parkway.

The issue seems to have been cleared up as of Tuesday after inquiries by The Lake Report – the town is now allowing 75 per cent capacity. But Just said the town still hasn't responded to her inquiries, though it did get back to some of her clients.

In response to questions from The Lake Report, the town's director of community development, Craig Larmour, said Just is allowed to operate her outdoor venue at 75 per cent capacity.

"If a social gathering associated with a wedding is convened at 'a meeting



Alexander Woo and Amanda Sutton weren't able to send invitations to more than 100 people due to confusion over outdoor event limits. RICHARD HARLEY

or event space, including a conference centre or convention centre' (eg. a facility zoned for such use), capacity is limited to 50 per cent indoor or 75 per cent outdoor. For 225 people to be accommodated indoor, the capacity would need to be established at 450. For 225 people to be accommodated outdoor, the capacity would need to be established at 300," Larmour said.

However, Just said the town originally told her that it was interpreting the reopening legislature to mean she can't have more than 100 people. That's when she pointed out that she is technically an event space, as the town requires her to get event permits.

"For every wedding I have, I'm required to have a special event and occasion permit. The irony of it," Just said.

She said the confusion over the issue has caused problems for families looking to book weddings without knowing how many people they can invite.

"It's unfair because people have withheld, you can imagine, their invitations. They're one month out, they're three weeks out, they're two weeks out, in the hope that there is a formal answer from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake that they can invite more family and friends as they would wish to."

It also has taken a toll on wedding vendors themselves, as they struggle to catch up with an already shortened season due to lockdowns.

Amanda Sutton, who is set to have her wedding at Kurtz Orchards on Sept. 25, said the confusion has been a struggle for her and her partner Alexander Woo.

Faced already with the pandemic, the couple has pushed their wedding date back three times.

"We specifically rebooked to an outdoor venue, knowing that rules for those venues were a little bit more lenient than indoor venues," said Sutton. "Basically, it's just really frustrating, because if we were getting married anywhere else, we

could have all of our friends and family there."

Adding to the frustration, she said, is that NOTL is a known wedding destination. She said she suspects the town's policies could impact future business for wedding venue operators.

Sutton said she thinks wedding businesses should interpret the rules based on the province's guidelines, rather than the municipality's.

"That would be great for us, obviously as clients and getting to have the wedding that we want," she said, but understands why Just might have been hesitant if the town had a different interpretation.

"But then again, if the legislation says 75 per cent capacity and that's the rules Ontario has put in place, then it should apply across the board to everyone in Ontario."

With the date of her wedding approaching, she said she's still only been able to send out 100 invitations.

"It depends how much longer that we have to keep waiting until it gets insult-

ing to invite people like one week out – which I guess we can't even do, because the venue needs to know at least three weeks out for their numbers and their own planning. So we're getting down to the wire."

She said a friend who is getting married Sept. 4 has 260 people coming.

Sutton said she also feels for business owners like Just, who are losing money and could be getting a bad rep as a result of the confusion.

"We had a long talk with (Just) about how it hurts her too because, she can have 100, that's great, but if they can have 200 or 260, that increases the money she can make exponentially off food and beverage obviously," she said. "So anyone else who's obeying the rules are getting hurt too."

Just feels she may be in the "minority" of similar businesses, some of which she suspects have been interpreting the rules differently and allowing 75 per cent capacity without double-checking.

But with the confusion, Just said she wanted to make sure she was doing the right thing.

During Step 2 of reopening, she put similar questions to the town about whether she was allowed 25 people or 25 per cent capacity. An email to Coun. Wendy Cheropita provided a different answer than the town's official stance.

Cheropita asked Vintage Inns how they were handling their weddings and found they were allowing 25 per cent capacity per the reopening plan. However, the town responded that Just was to cap events at 25.

The same problem translated into Step 3 opening guidelines.

She said the town hasn't responded to her with a clarification after seeking answers, but that the town did acknowledge the events limit to one of her clients.

While Just said she doesn't necessarily blame the town, she said she thinks the confusion is a result of so many changes happening so fast.

"I think you are dealing with a body of staff that is quite frankly not used to moving at this pace, whether it's at the legislative level of Ontario, or municipal," she said.

And while she sympathizes with staff, she said businesses need answers quickly, especially when a six-month wedding season has already been cut in half.

As of Monday, she said she was stuck in a sort of limbo, awaiting an official response.

Other operators, she suspects, are moving forward without waiting, creating a further imbalance for businesses who are trying to ensure they're doing the right thing.

"That is my impression through some of our vendors that I might be in the minority of asking for official interpretation," she said.

But taking a risk on interpretation could come with a hefty cost, she said, with large fines looming for businesses that violate COVID reopening protocols.

"There's a significant punishment," she said. "I think it was \$100,000 for the venue, \$850 per person for every person that wasn't supposed to be there. So, it raised a big red flag."

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The last spikes: Vintage rail laid at old repair pit



Dock area resident Ron Simkus bangs in a railway spike at a new display to commemorate an old stop. EVAN SAUNDERS

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

After several months of talks with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, an authentic railroad track has now been installed on the former engine repair pit along Turntable Way.

"I'm speechless. Words fail me," Ron Simkus said as the lakefront project he worked on concluded.

Simkus has been pushing to install a vintage rail

on the recently discovered engine repair pit.

The rail, made in 1902 and salvaged from a site in Pickering by PGM Rail Services Ltd., was rolled in on a tractor-trailer. It is the first authentic rail track installed in town since the railroad was decommissioned in the 1950s.

The 900-plus pound, 40-foot rail had to be moved using a forklift and carefully placed by PGM's professionals for installation.

Using specialized tools to

move the heavy rail, it was placed on top of the original rail ties from the repair pit, which Simkus found on a neighbouring property during reconstruction.

Nick Leuchin, PGM's manager of construction, and transport driver Dan Sherk did most of the work on behalf of PGM – free of charge.

"I feel like we're working for the government, eight people watching and two guys working," Simkus joked while the pros handled the rail.

After a few misses by Simkus with the sledgehammer, Leuchin stepped in to help.

"It's been a long time since I did this," Leuchin said.

He missed the first swing but the second one drove the spike straight into the ground. Onlookers stood back and applauded while the spikes were hammered in.

Now that the rail is installed, Simkus hopes to have an informative plaque erected nearby to educate passersby on NOTL's history as a once-mighty railway centre.

RIDDLE ME THIS

What month of the year has 28 days?

Last issue: I have lakes with no water, mountains with no stone, and cities with no buildings. What am I?

Answer: A map

Answered first by: Sheelah Young

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Mary Drost, Margaret Garaughty, David Steele, Jim Campbell, Tammy Florio, Pam Dowling, Sheila Meloche, Wade Durling, Robert Wilms, Maria Janeiro, Sadie Willms, Sylvia Wiens, Josh Langendoen, Margie Enns, Gerry Hruby

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

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Historic Falls power plant gets fresh surge of life

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

An old Niagara power plant has been given a new surge of life.

The Niagara Parks Commission unveiled its newest tourist attraction last week with the opening of the Niagara Parks Power Station on the Niagara Parkway not far from the Horseshoe Falls.

“We’re proud and excited today. It’s been a real team effort to get to this and everybody who’s here today contributed in some way,” Niagara Parks chief executive officer David Adames told The Lake Report on opening day.

The power plant, which formerly operated as the Canadian Niagara Power generating station, was originally opened in 1905 and functioned until 2006, when it was closed and gifted to Niagara Parks.

Niagara Parks superintendent of heritage Jim Hill said they didn’t know what to do with it at first.

“Nobody else wanted it at the time,” he said.

But it wasn’t long before the commission realized it had something unique to both sides of the Niagara River, thanks to some old American policies.

“What the Americans did with their original agree-



Left: The power station extends 180 feet underground as shown in this model. Niagara Parks hopes to open the underground portion of the facility next year. Right: Sandie Bellows, Karl Dockstader, Jim Bradley, Lisa MacLeod and others celebrate the opening of the Niagara Parks Power Station. EVAN SAUNDERS



ment (was) when you were done with these power plants, they had to go.”

That makes the new attraction one of the only historical power plants open to tourists on either side of the border.

“Americans are jealous about everything and this is just one more thing,” Hill laughed.

The project was enabled by a \$25 million loan from the provincial government which Niagara Parks has promised to pay back within a decade.

“Judging by the Doors Open campaign that was here before (opening day) it will be sold out in no time. I bet you’ll even pay me back

that \$25 million sooner than we think,” said Lisa MacLeod, Ontario’s minister of heritage, sports, tourism and culture.

The inside of the station has been polished and cleaned up to reflect its working condition and the giant turbines and control panels have been turned into interactive learning stations for visitors.

Visitors can stroll through and marvel at the magnitude of the structure and its parts while learning about how a hydro power station functions.

The massive building isn’t even 20 per cent of the actual structure. The power plant descends nearly 180

feet below ground. The commission is hoping to open the underground portion of the power plant to tourism next year, Hill said.

Although opening day was last Wednesday, invited guests weren’t the first people to get a view of the refurbished plant.

“Two former employees were in here the other day getting a sneak peak. I think they worked here for over 40 years,” Hill said.

“By the end of their tour they had tears in their eyes they were so happy to see the place shining again.”

The ribbon cutting ceremony started off with speeches from Adames, chair Sandie Bellows and MacLeod.

Karl Dockstader, executive director of the Niagara Regional Native Centre, gave a traditional speech called “The Words That Come Before All Else,” also known as the Thanksgiving Address, in Oneida, a Haudenosaunee dialect spoken by fewer than 200 people in Canada.

The speech, passed down through recitation for hundreds of years, gave thanks to the land, trees and waters of Niagara that Indigenous Peoples have called home for 12,000 years.

“By doing acts like inviting me here today to offer these words of thanksgiving we’re doing our part to ensure that 500 years from

now, 1,000 years from now and 5,000 years from now these words are still spoken on these territories,” Dockstader said.

He kept the ceremony grounded in appreciation for the natural beauty and potential of the Niagara region.

“We’re right on top of 20 per cent of the world’s freshwater and it doesn’t matter how much money we brought today, how much material we’ve accumulated in our lives – it matters that we have this collective resource.”

The station opened for visitors on July 30 with a regular admission price of \$20.



RiverBrink Art Museum. FILE PHOTO

New exhibitions for reopening of RiverBrink

Colin Brezicki
Special to The Lake Report

RiverBrink Art Museum in Queenston has reopened after a long COVID closure, and director/curator Debra Antoncic and her staff are delighted to welcome back members and non-members alike.

However, masks are mandatory and admission numbers are limited.

Sara Morris was recently appointed office administrator and Morgan Chin-Yee is the new curatorial and programming assistant. Both new employees are excited to be welcoming visitors to share the museum’s most recent exhibitions and enjoy the attractive gardens

overlooking the Niagara River.

“Power,” an audio and video installation by St. Catharines artist Elizabeth Chitty, is now open. The exhibit’s theme portrayed simultaneously on three screens is reconciliation: three women representing Loyalist and Indigenous personae walk against a backdrop of the Niagara River’s hydro power that drove industry at great cost to the river and natural setting. “Sound moves through space of spoken excerpts from historical documents, the women’s voices and soundscape of the river above and below the water’s surface.”

A complementary exhibition curated by Antoncic is “The River,” drawn from Samuel Weir’s collection. The paintings, prints and drawings illustrate the transition from the early pastoral countryside to the beginnings of the Industrial age.

Antoncic also has curated from the permanent collection an exhibition of Georgian-Era portraits by European artists that express class and status within settler elites in British North America following the conquest.

On the grounds at RiverBrink, artist Tracey-Mae Chambers has created a string installation as part of

her #hopeandhealing initiative. Other installations can be viewed at the Pumhouse in NOTL, Ball’s Falls and Glimsby Art Gallery.

Inside the art museum are also paintings by members of the Group of Seven, a selection of “Botanicals” and recent acquisitions. The museum gift shop features many new items, paintings, jewelry, and books by local artists and authors.

To learn more about the exhibitions, activities, the “Adopt-an-Artist” fundraiser and membership options, visit the website at www.riverbrink.org.

Colin Brezicki is a member and volunteer at RiverBrink.



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Bella Terra Vineyards a tribute to family traditions

Jessica Maxwell
The Lake Report

Though PondView Estate Winery has a new name, the winery's connection to its past is stronger than ever before.

Bella Terra wines have been a flagship for the winery since opening its doors in 2010, but the ongoing success and expansion of the wines inspired owner Luciano (Lou) Puglisi to rename the operation.

"Bella Terra pays homage to our family history, our Italian roots, our grape-growing roots," Puglisi said in an interview.

Grape-growing is a 45-year tradition in the Puglisi family, with three generations producing grapes from Italy to Canada.

Lou's parents Giuseppe and Concetta immigrated to Canada in the 1970s and while on a trip to Niagara Falls, discovered the farmlands of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The Puglisis decided to acquire a piece of NOTL's "beautiful land," or Bella Terra in Italian, and continue a family tradition of growing grapes and tender fruits.



Lou Puglisi grew up on the same farm on which the winery stands today. JESSICA MAXWELL

Changing the name to Bella Terra Vineyards is a way to pay homage to his parents and go back to his roots, Puglisi said.

"It gives me great joy and pride to be able to express that in our wines and in our business."

The design of the new Bella Terra label is a simplified version of a Sicilian tile with the sun at its centre. It is a way for Puglisi to

celebrate his family roots and "the connection between earth and sun that are the foundation of excellent grape farming," Bella Terra said in a news release.

The vineyard has also prepared a new wine experience, with a strong educational component, to share the Bella Terra story and help visitors understand why the natural history, geography of the region and

the Puglisi family's history has such an impact on the wines being produced.

Visitors can expect a walk through the vineyards while sipping wine. But they will also be travelling back in time with written explanations and QR codes to scan with a cellphone that link the viewer to a video further explaining each stop marked with a plaque along the tour path.

"It's not about teaching people how to make wine, but it's about the Niagara region as a whole, explaining why we can grow grapes here," said Marcel Morgenstern, Bella Terra's sales director.

One portion of the tour looks back to, "450 million years ago, when all of this land was submerged in a subtropical ocean and the escarpment was the highest

part of this basin," Morgenstern said. "And another stop talks about the ice ages, explaining more how all of this area was shaped."

The guided tour with samples is like some other wine tour experiences in the region, but the subject matter and delivery is an innovative step for Bella Terra.

The guide will take you through the vineyards, stopping at plaques that explain the historical and geographical significance of the land and people behind the vineyard.

"But then, after you relax with another glass of wine or some charcuterie, you can get up, walk around again and watch the videos along the tour," Morgenstern said.

Puglisi added, "It is important to me to let our guests know that our wines start right here in our own vineyards in one of the most exciting and still developing, growing regions of the world."

People hoping to learn more about the history of Bella Terra and the wines it produces can book their guided tour online at bellaterravineyards.ca.

New heritage trail proving popular walking destination

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The latest addition to the revamped Upper Canada Heritage Trail opened last week with an entrance on Charlotte Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Families say they've been enjoying the well-manicured trail and neighbours feel their concerns about clear-cutting were addressed.

Marlene McCarthy was out for a walk on the trail with her grandchildren Kaylee, 5, and Connor, 3, as well as her friend Linda Andres.

"This is great, they've done an excellent job," Andres said.

Connor was particularly excited about all the squirrels he saw.

"One, two, three, six,



Marlene McCarthy and grandchildren Connor and Kaylee McCarthy enjoy a walk along the Upper Canada Heritage Trail with friend Linda Andres. EVAN SAUNDERS

seven eight squirrels," he said rapid fire as his grandmother laughed.

The quartet were far from the only people enjoying the trail on Saturday morning.

"It's beautiful compared to what it was. Amazing, a really lovely addition to Niagara," Johnson Street resident Ellen Smith said

while out for a walk with husband Bob.

Ellen expressed her gratitude for some of the recreational additions the town has made in recent years, saying she is particularly fond of the Voices of Freedom Park.

Bob's not a big walker himself but said the new trail

may "light a fire under me."

Residents complained to the town last spring that workers had been liberal in their cutting of branches and bushes. They worried the new trail would infringe upon the privacy they've enjoyed in their backyards.

"The fear was they were going to make it like the lower part of the trail and clear a huge part of it," Charlotte Street resident John Sitch said.

"But they were a bit more sensitive than that."

Sitch's neighbour Don Recourt had the same worries.

"We were a little bit concerned that we would lose our personal coverage from the trees," said Recourt.

Those fears were allayed once the finished product was presented.

"It's great," he said.

He wasn't just satisfied that neighbours concerns

were addressed but felt the trail was now usable for a wider range of individuals.

"I think it's made the trail more inclusive for people. For quite a while it was mostly just locals walking through it and it wasn't good for people in wheelchairs or anything like that," he said.

"It's better for everyone now."

As to the cutting that was done, Recourt knows nature always finds a way. "It'll fill itself in," he said.

The cutting also made the trail safer for his dog.

"It was overgrown. We were worried about ticks and what not," he said.

The trail was officially opened on July 27 with a ribbon cutting ceremony by Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Niagara Fall's MPP Wayne Gates and federal MP Tony Baldinelli.

It rained on the parade but that didn't seem to dampen anyone's spirits.

"It keeps things moving," Disero joked.

She said she was also worried about cutting down trees to create the trail.

"My concern at the beginning was the removal of the forested area. But staff were able to talk with residents and determined that no trees would be removed that were healthy trees," she said.

"At the end of the day it was a great exercise in working together and I am very, very proud of everyone that was involved in the project."

There are several phases of the trail left to be completed. It now ends at East and West Line with the town planning to extend it all the way to York Road, once the funding is in place, Disero said.

STEELE GALLERY

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Kraun Electric co-owner started at the bottom

Bernard Lansbergen
Special to The Lake Report

Aaron Jones's career is a classic tale of how hard work and always striving to be the best can take you to the top.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake resident, who started literally at the bottom, is now a co-owner of one of Niagara's largest electrical companies, Kraun Electric.

The multi-million-dollar firm is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year with a new jolt of energy, overhauling the company's look, logo and mission statement.

Jones, 39, started at Kraun as a labourer in 2003 and bought half the company three years ago with Kelly Braun, the daughter of the firm's founder.

"I'm always aiming higher," says Jones. "If I can go to bed completely tired and exhausted mentally and physically from pushing myself, that's a good day."

The company invested a six-figure sum in revamping the overall look of the company and Jones thinks it's Kraun Electric's willingness



Kelly Braun and Aaron Jones. BERNARD LANSBERGEN

to transform and to listen that has made the company successful for so long.

"The company is always expanding and we're always open to new ideas, and that gives people the chance to thrive."

Jones, who was born and raised in St. Catharines, says he never saw himself as a leader growing up.

"I thought I was going to go into science of some sort. I was fairly timid, I didn't think of myself as a leader, but (in Grade 9) one of my teachers picked me and one other person to get sent to a leadership camp."

He thought, "That's neat, I didn't even think this was going on."

Throughout the years Jones kept finding himself in leadership roles as he became the president of his youth church group and quickly moved up in the ranks of his student job at a movie theatre.

"Whatever I do, I want to be the best at it as I can be," says Jones. "I'm a fairly competitive person but never to the detriment of others. It was always about being in competition with myself."

After high school Jones completed an electrical program at Niagara College and started a job as a labourer at Kraun.

To that point Kraun had been a St. Catharines staple

since 1996, when John Krause decided he wanted to start a business with his children.

Says his daughter, Braun: "We were always a close-knit family and we always did tons together, so this seemed like a natural fit and that's really how it started."

Jones was friends with her brother, Kevin Krause, and that's how he landed the job.

"Even in the beginning there was certainly no free ride or ticket and I had to prove myself many times to John (Krause)," says Jones.

"As an apprentice, I remember once going to John and saying, 'John, I want you to do a review of my work.' And there was no such thing as a formal review at the time."

"A week or two later he called me back into his office and said, 'I'm glad you asked me to do that, because I went and talked to all the foremen and I have some amazing feedback for you and this is a really good process.'"

Jones worked his way up through the company, just like he had at his previ-

ous employment positions, until he finally became part of Kraun Electric's leadership.

When John Krause retired in 2018, Jones decided he wanted to take over the company but he didn't want to do it alone, so he approached Kelly.

"I said, 'I'm going to make an offer to your dad to buy out the business but I think you're going to want to stay here,'" recalls Jones. He and Braun get along well and, he says, "If it wasn't for that I don't think this would have worked."

They bought out Braun's father and brother and now they're in it "equally together."

"There isn't one family that owns this more and I'm just tagging along. It forces us to really work hard at staying in alignment," he says.

While Kraun Electric is no longer just a family business, Jones and Braun want to carry on that legacy into the future.

"We've just tried to welcome people in our family," says Braun. "And now Aaron and I try to

carry on that same warmth and welcoming atmosphere where people feel cared for and connected, as if they are family."

But Jones says he doesn't expect his children to follow in his footsteps.

"That's not my plan. The company has really gone beyond a family business type of thing. They'll probably choose their own path. My ambitions for how I will exit the company one day are not hinging on my kids taking it over, by any means."

Together, the two business partners have different perspectives to offer the company.

"I started as just an employee and so I've kind of seen both sides of it. I know what it's like to just be an employee and I also now know what it's like to own and run the business," says Jones.

But that shift also means he made lots of friends in different departments – and now he's one of the bosses.

"It was an adjustment for me," admits Jones, "because I had to learn to make sure to put the company first."



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Residents of St. Davids - HAVE YOUR SAY!

The Region of Niagara has been conducting a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for intersection improvements at York Road and Four Mile Creek Road in St. Davids.

To date two on-line Public Information Center (PIC) sessions have been held.

The first PIC was on March, 25 2021.

This session focused on the study process and the benefits of roundabouts over signalized intersections.

Pedestrian safety was a concern even highlighted in the presentation which stated:

- Not everyone is comfortable finding or creating a gap in traffic in order to cross at a roundabout
- Seniors can find this difficult
- Children may not have the experience or confidence
- Pedestrians with vision loss can find roundabouts even more difficult to navigate

In addition to the above, which is troubling for a growing community with many seniors and young families, major concerns were raised about:

- The very small study area excluding the school and fire hall;

- The Line 9 connection not being considered; and,
- The very small consultation area with mailings not going to the entire urban area of St Davids or even all post office box holders.

It should be noted that not all concerns raised at the first PIC were contained in the summary report, nor was any mention of the formal letter the St Davids Ratepayers Association submitted to the project team in advance of the session (March 22, 2021).

The second PIC was on June 23, 2021.

This session focused on justifying the selection of the roundabout option. A new criteria was added about accommodating large trucks. Do we have a problem today with large truck getting stuck in the intersection? Do we want to encourage large trucks to go through St. Davids?

What about the Line 9 Connection option?

Currently Line 9 is not open to traffic between Four Mile Creek Road and Tanbark Road. Opening of this road allowance and paving Line 9 between Four Mile Creek Road and Tanbark could provide a bypass of the intersection and most of the urbanized area of St Davids for some traffic. This paired with minor improvements to the existing four-way stop and proper crosswalks and cycling facilities would serve St Davids well for many years to come.

Criteria	Alt 0: Do Nothing (All-Way Stop Control)	Alt 1: Signalized Intersection	Alt 2: Roundabout	Alt 3: Line 9 Improvements and Minor Improvements to All-Way Stop
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peak hour delays for motorists will continue to increase • No pedestrian crosswalk on north leg and no tactile walking surface indicators (TWSI's) • No dedicated facilities for cyclists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low delays, but potential for turning movement collisions • Longer crossing distances for pedestrians, but have TWSI's and audible signals • Dedicated facilities for cyclists, but higher traffic speeds for turning movements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low delays, and statistically the safest type of intersection for all road users • Shortest crossing distances, TWSI's, pedestrians only have to look in one direction at a time • Pedestrians with vision loss and young children can't navigate • Dedicated facilities for cyclists, but crossings are via crosswalks as pedestrians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor delays in some peak hours for motorists • Short crossing distances and TWSI's for pedestrians • Dedicated facilities for cyclists, crossings protected by stop conditions • Continues to calm speeds in village with stop condition • Line 9 provides peak hour and alternate route bypass of village center
Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not affect Four Mile Creek, species at risk (SAR) or vegetation • Vehicle idling will affect air quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will impact Four Mile Creek structure (Note this is disputable, impact seems to be driven by unnecessary right turn lane into Paxton Lane, which is not needed with signals) • Potential impact to vegetation • Vehicle idling will affect air quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will not impact Four Mile Creek structure but may affect nearby vegetation • Smoother and more uniform traffic flow will reduce emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not affect Four Mile Creek, species at risk (SAR) or vegetation • Reduced vehicle idling will lower effect on air quality
Socio-Economic Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No property or parking/access impacts • Good speed control unless a driver ignores the stop sign • No change in vehicle noise • No opportunity for streetscaping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will require some property and restrict access near intersection to right turns only • May encourage speeding to beat red signal • Similar vehicle noise to stop control • Some opportunity for streetscaping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will require moderate property and restrict access near intersection to right turns only • Geometry of roundabout controls vehicle speeds • Vehicle noise lower due to smooth uniform traffic flow • Most opportunity for streetscaping with central island 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No property or parking/access impacts • Good speed control unless a driver ignores the stop sign • No change in vehicle noise • Minor opportunity for streetscaping • Bypass of St. Davids core beneficial in Emergency Situations
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In close proximity to the old barn in the northwest corner; however, no direct impact to building. Building in southeast corner of the intersection will be directly impacted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In close proximity to the old barn in the northwest corner and building on southeast corner of the intersection; however, no direct impact to buildings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No impact
Engineering/Constructability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not accommodate large trucks (Note this is disputable if it is even a problem in St. Davids) • No issues with existing utilities or construction • Status quo for maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will accommodate large trucks • Major utility impact • Minor lane closures during construction • Will require signal maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will accommodate large trucks • Smaller utility conflicts • Significant lane closures during construction • Will require landscaping maintenance • Complex winter maintenance • Complex and difficult construction staging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can make minor changes to accommodate large trucks if this is really needed • Minimal issues with existing utilities • No issues with existing buildings or construction • Status quo for maintenance at intersection, small additional maintenance on new Line 9 • Line 9 construction does not involve staging for traffic, minor staging at intersection for small improvements.
OVERALL (Revised)	<p>Although retaining the existing all-way stop is the lowest cost alternative, it will not address peak hour delays and queues at the intersection, improve conditions for pedestrians, nor mitigate existing geometric issues with large trucks</p>	<p>The signalized intersection alternative will address peak hour delays and queues and improve conditions for pedestrians, but will have some significant socioeconomic and cost impacts</p>	<p>The roundabout alternative will address peak hour delays and queues and improve conditions for some pedestrians, will have socioeconomic impacts to businesses, and could be as costly as a signalized intersection or more when property costs are factored in. Major construction staging issues.</p>	<p>This alternative will be lower cost than either the signals or the roundabout. There will be minor construction staging issues and minor property impacts. There is the added advantage of creating another bypass alternative of the intersection to reduce traffic through the village.</p>

Have your say ... Contact your representatives below and voice your opinion.

Betty Disero
 Lord Mayor, Niagara-on-the-Lake
 905-468-3266
betty.disero@niagararegion.ca

Wayne Gates
 MPP, Niagara-on-the-Lake
 905-357-0681
wgates-co@ndp.on.ca

Gary Zalepa
 Regional Councillor, Niagara-on-the-Lake
 416-602-5431
gary.zalepa@niagararegion.ca



Hot putters rule during NOTL women's competition

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

A putting contest during the 18 hole women's league's regular Tuesday game brought out the best in some of the players at the NOTL Golf Club this week.

Four women tallied just 13 putts in their first nine holes – two putts per hole is considered normal.

The hot putters were Judy Mantle, Carroll Baker, Kim Hrycko and May Chang.

Chang had a stellar day on the links, taking second in low gross with an 89 and winning low net honours (67).

Lisa Allen and reigning women's club champ Yolanda Henry won low gross (89), followed by Chang, Michele Darling (90) and senior women's champ Ginny Green (91).

Second low net was Margot Richardson (70), followed by Gayle Tanner and Lisa Allen (71), and Barbara Ahluwalia (72). Christine Earl birdied #11 and Marg Ketcheson had a chip-in.



May Chang. FILE/KEVIN MACLEAN

Carole Matheson led the 9 hole women's league with a net 32. Other winners were Linda Williams (34), Charlotte Kainola (35), and Margot Hickson and Maureen Taylor with net 36.

Men's results: Norm Kerr was the runaway winner during men's league competition on July 29.

He accumulated 24 points under the modified Stableford scoring system, three points ahead of Greg Keldson.

Six players tied for third with 20 points each: Warren Tutton, Nino Ferrantelli, Ralph Rickard, Robert

Yamamoto, Rai Lauge and Steven Levy.

Reigning club champion James Grigjanis-Meusel continued his dominance of the league, shooting a 1-under 35.

Net skins winner Johnson Hu (#2) and Doug Dineley (#8) had a great payday, collecting \$200 each.

Gross skins of \$33 each went to Tutton (#3), Kurt Hamm (#5), Michael Eagen (#7) and Grigjanis-Meusel (#9) for recording birdies.

Closest to the pin winners were Tutton (#4) and Sean Simpson (#9).

Rotary Club has open spots for Aug. 24 golf tournament

Penny Milligan
Special to The Lake Report

Those darn Rotarians are at it again.

The Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake is well-known for its long history of community service.

If you've attended the Canada Day pancake breakfast and barbecue in Simcoe Park, the icewine martini party, or the holiday house tour, you've played part in the club's ongoing commitment to help local and international causes

The group has come up with a new slant on things for 2021 – a Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake golf tournament

"This idea came together out of a need to bolster our fundraising activities in a way that is healthy and user-friendly," said Howard Kudlats, one of the organizers.

"We were unable to hold our holiday house tour last year and our icewine martini party has been cancelled for this September. Our tournament is out in the fresh air, promotes a congenial



FILE PHOTO

atmosphere and helps to raise money for our causes, which have been hard hit by the pandemic over the last year and a half."

The event will be held at Beechwood Golf and Social House on Aug. 24. Players are still welcome and encouraged. The cost is \$175 and Kudlats said people will experience a first-rate event with tons of fine prizes and memorable activities.

"We will have a putting contest for beautiful wines supplied by Strewn and Pondview wineries, a totally interesting and unique long drive contest, and a hole-in-one super prize to our first hole-in one-player, a gorgeous BMW supplied by Performance Auto Group."

Sponsors have helped out

"with wonderful prizes, and with our fun day, which includes a generous lunch snack box, a prime rib dinner and a Taste of Niagara gift bag for each participant," he said.,

For those of you wondering about which causes the Rotarians are contributing to from this event, The Niagara Nursery School expansion program will be the NOTL beneficiary of the event.

On the international side, tournament proceeds will go to the Nia Project, a non-profit creating 3D prosthetic limbs for children in Sri Lanka.

Players can continue to register online at www.Niagaraonthelakerotary-club.ca or call Kudlats at 905-708-8579 for more information.

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Vanessa Vani
Audiologist

*Free trial participants must be private sale, or eligible for ADP. Some public insurers not eligible. See clinic for details. Offer valid until July 31st, 2021 and is subject to change without notice. **A comprehensive hearing assessment is provided to adults ages 19 and older at no cost. The results of this assessment will be communicated verbally to you. If you request a copy of the Audiological Report, a fee will apply. Child hearing tests are conducted at select locations for a fee, please contact us for more information. Some conditions may apply. Devices pictured are not suitable for all levels of hearing loss.

NEWS

Niagara College wins **double gold** for Sauvignon Blanc at national competition

Staff
The Lake Report

Niagara College has a new reason to boast about its wines, after taking home a double gold for its 2019 Balance Sauvignon Blanc at the All Canadian Wine Championships.

Created by college winemaker Gavin Robertson and students in the winery and viticulture program, the white wine was up against 1,365 vintages from 217 Canadian wineries.

It's the first double gold for a Niagara College Sauvignon Blanc.

The college also took home gold for its 2019 Balance Muscat, a silver for the 2019 Dean's List Savant red icewine and a silver for its 2018 Balance Gamay Noir.

The winning wines aren't produced every year, which makes the results particularly notable, Robertson said. The Balance Gamay Noir is the second Gamay vintage produced by the program.

"That's satisfying. I've been the winemaker here since 2014 and I feel like



Gavin Robertson with Niagara College's winners. SUPPLIED

"I'm finally getting my head wrapped around certain grapes," said Robertson, who graduated from the college's wine program in 2011.

This isn't the first year the college has brought home accolades for its wine.

"The competition results from Niagara College con-

sistently show the calibre of the teaching staff and the talent of its students," said Bev Carnahan, director of the All Canadian Wine Championships.

"Year to year, the college comes away with a fistful of medals and on occasion, a trophy. Their Balance Brut is not to be missed."



FORM 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The approving authority is:

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

The expropriating authority is:

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

Phone: 905 468 - 3266

Fax: 905 468 - 2959

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

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

OPEN FOR DINE IN

BARREL
HEAD



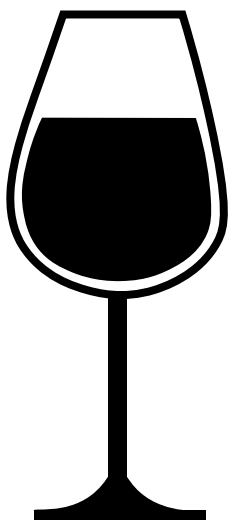
THIS
WEEKEND

THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY

11:30AM - 9PM

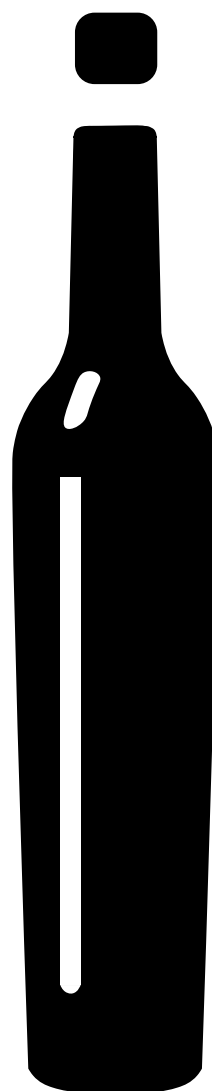
SUNDAY

11:30AM - 6PM



SEE YOU
SOON

905-468-3147 EXT.333



DINE IN

SPECIALS

PIZZA



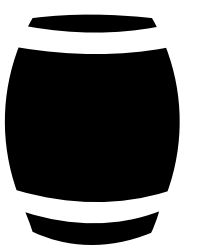
WINE & SUNSHINE



LOCALS RECEIVE

15% OFF

*FOOD ITEMS ONLY



PILLITTERI
ESTATES
Winery



Have some fun

Across

- 1. Tasks (4)
- 3. Thin layer (4)
- 6. Expiry (5)
- 10. Repentant (9)
- 11. Tooth top (5)
- 12. Possible cause of skin cancer (7)
- 13. Glitter (7)
- 14. Excess of expenditure over income (4)
- 16. Ignominious failure (6)
- 18. Conditions that are possible but uncertain (3)
- 21. Silent (3)
- 22. Long narrow excavation (6)
- 23. Version still being developed (4)
- 25. Slackens (7)
- 27. Animate (7)
- 29. Serious wrongdoing (5)
- 30. Icy pellet (9)
- 31. Snake (5)
- 32. Entertain in a public place (4)
- 33. Lugs (4)

Down

- 1. Capital of Israel (9)
- 2. Started (5)
- 4. Childish (9)
- 5. Thaws (5)
- 6. E.g. Mussolini (8)
- 7. Adjoining (9)
- 8. Pivot (5)
- 9. Fix a computer program (5)
- 15. Use of metaphors (9)
- 17. Organizations (9)
- 19. Rust-resistant (9)
- 20. And so forth (2,6)
- 24. Sudden burst of light (5)
- 25. Doctor's replacement (5)
- 26. Indian form of address (5)
- 28. Violin's bigger sister (5)

Crossword Puzzle

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Last issue's answers

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14	29	30	I	N	C	U	R			31	P	E	N	T	E	C	O	S	T
15	32	33	A	E	T	E	D	D	M	S									

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				7				8	1	
8			5							7
5							6	3	2	





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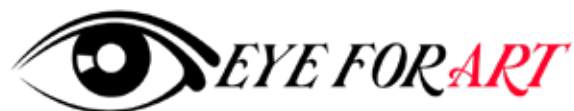




GARY DEMEO
MICHELLE ZAPPETELLI
GREG SYKES
DEBI CHEWERDA
CAMERON JONES



FEATURED



Mystery of 'The Lovers II'

Penny-Lynn Cookson
Special to The Lake Report

A naughty friend with a twinkle in his eye recently asked, with regard to this column, "When are you going to do erotica?"

I laughed, believing that the family-friendly pages of The Lake Report might not be suitable for such a probing subject. But then the idea of erotica in its mysterious ways, the sensual and subtle, as opposed to aggressive and blatant, captured my imagination and into my mind slid René Magritte's masked lovers.

What is there to see? In front of two primary painted walls of blue and red, cool and warm, the lovers kiss through white cloth tightly wrapped across their faces but falling into loose folds around their necks to the backs of their heads. The man is dominant, leaning forward slightly as the woman tilts her head up

submissively for the kiss.

They are well-dressed, the man in a dark business suit, white shirt and tie, the woman in a red dress with white piping. Are the colours significant? Blue for calm, white for purity, red for passion, black for death?

The only bare skin is the woman's upper arm and in its foreground position to the viewer, it becomes strangely suggestive, evocative, waiting to be touched, a reminder of that momentary flick of a woman's ankle usually hidden under long skirts that sent men into a tizzy at the end of the 19th century.

The 1920s were the liberation era of the smoking hot, cropped hair "flappers" waving cigarette holders in their short sleeveless dresses as they danced the Charleston with abandon while ushering in new values. All this was soon to come to a crashing end with the decade ahead



René Magritte, "The Lovers II," 1928, oil on canvas, Museum of Modern Art, New York. SOURCED

and there is something in this image that suggests the tentative hesitancy, a desire for an elusive intimacy, the unknown of what lies ahead, so reflective of our own time.

Kissing is memorable in our western art icons of Rodin's sculpture of embracing lovers and Gustave Klimt's lovers bedazzled by desire in golden garments. Hollywood kisses were seared into our romantic dreams, changing with generations in movie houses now altered by at home streaming, Netflix and porn.

The smouldering Rudolf Valentino and swashbuck-

ling Errol Flynn evolved to the thwarted mature love of Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman in "Casablanca" and on to the young, passionate, windswept kisses of the doomed lovers of "Titanic."

However, there are things we should know. Kissing helps us choose our mates. The swapping smooch uses 146 muscles and introduces 80 million new bacteria. Gross to some.

According to a recent Washington Post article on a University of Nevada study of kissing, in North America 55 per cent of us romantic-sexual kiss, 45 per

cent of us kiss in a nonromantic-sexual way.

On romantic-sexual kisses Europe is 70 per cent, Asia 73, Oceania 44 and the Middle East 100. But romantic kissing is not "on" in Central America and is not the norm in Africa at 13 per cent or South America at 19 per cent.

Kissing is a very strange thing to some. But how to kiss? Lips? Noses? Tongue? A peck on the cheek? The air kiss? One cheek, two cheeks, three cheeks, even four? Or the always swoon-worthy respectful kiss on the hand? Or sadly, no kisses at all during COVID?

And so, back to Magritte. What were his intentions? What should we take away from this strange masked kiss? Frustrated desire? Fabric acting as prevention to passion? Intimacy denied? Or a subtle question as to whether we ever can know the true nature of those we love?

René Magritte was born in Belgium in 1898 and became a leading exponent of Surrealism. Juxtapositions of the ordinary, the strange, the erotic, the ambiguous

and of humour appear in his work. By the time of his death in Brussels in 1967, he had achieved a great influence on Pop art and advertising.

The man in the bowler hat, the pipe, the floating apple or rock in the room remain familiar images that continue to perplex and delight.

On whether his continual obscuring of the faces of his subjects was due to the trauma of his mother's death by suicide, Magritte disagreed and stated that his "visible images conceal nothing ... they evoke mystery and, indeed, when one sees one of my pictures, one asks oneself this simple question, 'What does it mean?' It does not mean anything, because mystery means nothing either. It is unknowable."

Penny-Lynn Cookson is an art historian who taught at the University of Toronto for ten years. She was also head of extension services at the Art Gallery of Toronto. See her lectures on "Landscape and Memory" on Zoom at the Pumphouse Arts Centre, Aug. 4 to 25. Registration is free.

Dr. Brown: Pandemic virus keeps **upping the ante** with variants

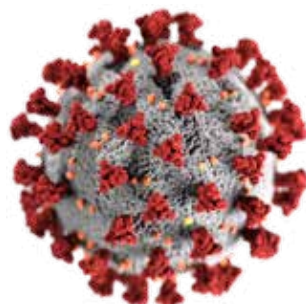
Dr. William Brown
The Lake Report

At the most basic level, this pandemic has always been about a battle between hordes of mutating viruses and billions of human hosts, with no clear victor or end as yet in sight.

This fight is similar to other battles, such as those between mutating cancer cells and oncological tools such chemotherapy and novel immunotherapies or in the case of bacterial infections, between the bacteria and antibiotics.

In each example, whether viruses, cancer cells or bacteria, left alone to multiply, continuing mutations may stumble on solutions to therapies or the host's defences. They all illustrate the power of evolution on the fast track in which emerging, random mutations coupled with natural selection, compete against defences to dictate the outcome.

Until a few months ago, it looked as if we were



winning, what with the widespread availability of effective vaccines and vaccination programs, especially in the western world.

As of July 31 in Ontario, 70.2 per cent of adults were fully vaccinated and 81.3 per cent had received one shot. Those are impressive numbers and quite an achievement – well ahead of current numbers in the United States, mostly because vaccine reluctance or refusal poses less of a challenge in Ontario and the province hasn't fully opened up the way many U.S. states have.

However, this is no time for a victory lap in Ontario or anywhere else. Look at the rush these days to open

up international travel, sporting events, restaurants and other highly social activities in the United States, U.K. and Europe and the disconnect between those pressures and what's happening in Japan, Australia, almost all of Africa, the chaos in the "red" states and beyond, south of the border and the recent severe outbreak in China sparked by a single flight from Russia, which led to lockdowns in several major Chinese cities – all apparently related to the Delta variant.

The Delta variant is a hint of possible variants to come. This variant is much easier to catch and pass on compared to the Alpha variant, which was itself much more transmissible compared to the original virus.

The fact that even fleeting contacts are sufficient to pass on this variant is consistent with the observation that the viral load carried by asymptomatic unvaccinated people and even some fully vaccinated cases with the

Delta variant, is often much higher compared to cases carrying the Alpha variant.

Of course, no vaccine is perfect. Breakthrough infections were always a possibility in fully vaccinated cases long before the Delta variant emerged. But in a recent study of the largest health care facility in Israel, breakthrough infections were observed in a small group of fully vaccinated health care workers.

Fortunately, most of those who tested positive were asymptomatic. However, in a small number of cases, infection was associated with cold-like symptoms and in some instances, the development of long COVID symptoms. That's worrisome and perhaps why Israel intends to offer a third shot to those 60 years of age and over as a caution. That's a wise decision and will likely lead to extending the booster to younger Israelis.

We also know that some of the major vaccine manufacturers such as Pfizer Bi-

oNTech and Moderna have taken steps to update their vaccines to include protection against the Alpha, Delta and other known variants, as possible booster shots should they be required.

That's the kind of forward thinking we need because, as with known variants, new ones may spring up without much notice and as was the case for the Alpha and Delta variants, each of which became the dominant variant within a few weeks, especially when countries open up their borders. The recent outbreak in China is a lesson to be heeded.

If anyone needs reminding, surely the surging numbers of cases in so many countries around the world makes the point. This is a worldwide problem and cannot be solved without looking after our brothers and sisters everywhere, not just protecting those within our borders.

Sharing vaccines with hot spots elsewhere in the world helps us as well as them cor-

ral what has become a highly transmissible virus, rivaling chickenpox which for those of us who remember, was very easy to pass on.

Our concern should be variants we don't yet know about. Remember, evolution is opportunistic and in the case of SARS-CoV-2, quick to exploit weaknesses in public health measures, including our behaviour, vaccines and our immune systems.

Most worrisome of all would be breakthrough infections that go beyond common cold symptoms to involve the lower respiratory tract and beyond. That would be a nightmare revisited in long-term care facilities and beyond.

The evidence is worrisome and as we've learned in this pandemic, evidence counts.

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.



Annual Charity Golf Tournament
Tuesday, August 24, 2021 - 11am Shotgun
at Beechwood Golf Club
Chance to win a BMW and many other prizes
For more information visit niagaraonthelakerotary.ca

Niagara-on-the-Lake
Rotary
Club



EXPLORING PHOTOS

WITH NOTL MUSEUM



Evans candy shop

Here's a photograph, c.1900, of the Evans Ice Cream and Candy Store. The people at the front are most likely, from left, Mrs. Clara Parker, Lillian (Parker) Greaves and Mrs. Mathews. The Mathews family ran the candy store in this timber-framed 1860s building for several years. Mr. Evans was very popular with the town's children, who likely ran there each time they could find a penny to spend. He earned the nickname "Candy" Evans. In the 1980s, the building became part of the Prince of Wales complex, a well-conserved historic structure amid the brick and clapboard Picton Street hotel extension. See if you can pick it out on your next walk in the heritage district.



A checklist for infill design

Brian Marshall
Columnist



Brian Marshall. SUPPLIED

So you'd like to build a dream house as an infill within an established neighbourhood. Where do you start?

It should not begin with acquiring a lot, unless, of course, you are completely open to the type of house that will be designed.

If this is not the case, and you have a design vision firmly in mind, begin by hiring an architect to develop concept drawings and then search for a lot on which it will work. The following abbreviated checklist can be used in either case.

Quite simply, good infill design begins with context. In other words, the topography and existing streetscape should dictate

many elements of the design rather than the design being imposed on the streetscape. The former creates integration, while the latter can only be an eyesore.

In considering context, let's start with height. As a general rule, the highest point of your new house should never exceed the tallest of the adjacent houses on the street and it is often preferable to set it at the street average. Consideration should be given to roof type and slopes in order to marry the visual lines with those of the shouldering homes.

Next, there is a question of massing (or the way the volumes of the building are put together). Complicated mass-

ings (such as can be seen on many late 20th-century millennium mansions) with several secondaries not only result in visual confusion but also multiple roof lines, valleys and slopes that seriously detract from traditional streetscape integration, as well as adding expense to build cost.

Simple massing (think of the single massing of a classic Georgian or primary/secondary massing of an L-shaped Gothic farmhouse, as examples) is both elegant and much more easily integrated into an existing streetscape.

Although it sounds like an easy question, where to locate your new house on the lot can often be quite

complex.

In no particular order, you should consider: The topography; using natural slopes and contours is always preferable. The pattern of setbacks in the existing streetscape (from the street to the facades of neighbouring houses); following that pattern will create a pleasing visual repetition within the overall street presentation.

Establishing open space; positioning the house in a fashion that maximizes the uninterrupted flow of your lawns, driveway, sidewalk walkway, and so on, with those of the shouldering houses will benefit all three properties. Maintaining or improving existing lines of sight; your new house should be positioned in a fashion that respects, to every extent possible, the lines of sight from the windows of your neighbours' homes. Nobody wants a view that once looked over a garden replaced by a window into your new master bedroom or a brick wall.

And we'll continue our checklist next week.

Looking to the Stars



Sometimes stubborn can be good

Bill Auchterlonie
Special to The Lake Report

This week we see Uranus square to the sun on Friday, Aug. 6, and a new moon in Leo on Sunday the 8th.

Thursday, Aug. 5: Oodles of energy and an energetic surprise are two themes for today. It was Aug. 5, 1583, when explorer Humphrey Gilbert landed at Newfoundland and claimed it for the British Crown. This was the start of the British Empire.

Friday, Aug. 6: The sun in Leo is square to Uranus in Taurus. This could bring a surprise change of direction forced by practical necessity. It may also bring something only dreamed about, closer to home. Happy birthday to the internet. Invented by Tim Berners-Lee, an English scientist, he first published his files describing the world wide web on Aug. 5, 1991.

Saturday, Aug. 7: Mercury in Leo is a proud Mercury full of ideas. Today Neptune creates stress by imagining things of deep sympathy. So, if we can be deeply empathetic and proud as well, then all is good. A graduate of radio and television arts from what was then called Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, Peter Jennings would go on to become the most respected American TV news anchor after Walter Cronkite. Jennings died Aug. 7, 2005.

Sunday, Aug. 8: Today we have a new moon in Leo. The new moon is conjunct Mercury, meaning in the same place in the sky. It is square to Uranus and opposite Saturn. This is a very important lunation, because it directly activates the Saturn-Uranus square.

Saturn square to Uranus previously was affecting others, but today it affects you. Initially, we may feel in between a rock and a hard place. The questions

are the same: who am I, really? What makes me different from others? What's my place in the world? You may not have all the answers yet, but make an effort and stay with the tension. Sometimes the things that we have the greatest resistance toward can lead to our greatest breakthroughs.

It is also the start of a new lunar month, a time to make a list of things we want to accomplish in the next 28 1/2 days. Even if only a few steps toward full accomplishment are possible, it is wise to list these things too. He is one of Canada's greatest goalies of all time. He won five Stanley Cups in only nine NHL seasons. Ken Dryden was born Aug. 8, 1947.

Monday Aug. 9: Stubborn thinking may be unavoidable. Sometimes stubborn can be good. If not, change it. And today is also a time when an important relationship, after a bit of tension, puts a smile on your face. On Aug. 9, 2012, Usain Bolt won the 200-metre sprint at the London Olympics. He also won the 100 metres.

Tuesday Aug. 10: Something to be boastful about is likely due, in part, to powerful good fortune. Still, it's nice to say it. On Aug. 10, 1497, John Cabot recounted to King Henry VII of England his trip to "Asia."

Wednesday Aug. 11: On the day when Mercury moves from Leo into her home sign of Virgo, Venus is in perfect harmony with Pluto. In short, it's a Wednesday loaded with willpower and charm and practical, smart thinking. Today is the 71st birthday of apple co-founder Steve Wozniak.

Next week, more from Mercury, and Venus enters Libra more.

Obtain your personal birth chart including a forecast for the year ahead on Bill Auchterlonie's podcast at auchterlonieonastrology.ca.

Astrology is a form of entertainment, not a science.



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Doris Carter



Carter, Doris L. (nee Heath)
Peacefully on Wednesday, July 28, 2021, at the Greater Niagara General Hospital, at the age of 90. Doris has been reunited with her beloved husband of 70 years, George Carter who passed away on December 10th, 2020. Loving and devoted mother of Stephen of Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON, Patrick (Maryanne) of Stroud, UK, Robert (Heather) of Prince George, B.C. Adoring Grandma to Jeff (Melissa) Carter and Jason (Nichole) Scott, both of Alberta.

Doris was born in Birmingham, United Kingdom, to her parents William Thomas Heath and Kathleen Heath (nee Read).

Doris met her husband George Carter in England and in 1957 moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada to raise their family. Doris and George enjoyed many years in their home and being part of the NOTL community. Throughout the years Doris, was a long-time dedicated member of the St. Davids Lioness Club in which she assisted and participated with the NOTL Christmas Parade and Lions Eye Care in Camp Dorset. Doris was a social butterfly and made many friendships with her neighbours and community friends. She was also kind and nurturing and extended her help towards Meals on Wheels, Block Parents, Neighbourhood Watch, St. Davids Brownies and many other organizations.

In accordance with Doris' wishes, cremation has taken place. Arrangements are entrusted with Essentials Cremation and Burial Services. In memory of Doris, memorial donations may be given to a local service club of your choosing. Online condolences may be shared on Doris' tribute page shared at EssentialsNiagara.com.

Kenneth Young



January 1, 1940 - August 2, 2020

*Loved and greatly missed
Those we love
Don't go away
They walk beside us
Every day
Unseen, unheard,
But always near
So loved, so missed
So very dear*

Gardening: Add some life to **perk up** your summer garden



Joanne Young
Special to The Lake Report



From left, Acanthus, Ligularia, Kniphofia, Helenium. JOANNE YOUNG PHOTOS

Well, July has come and gone, and August promises to be another warm month. Sometimes during this mid-to late-summer season, we can find our gardens looking a bit tired, lacking colour and in need of some new life.

I am sure that most of you who have some experience gardening, if questioned, could come up with names of a few mid-summer blooming perennials such as: purple coneflower, black-eyed Susan, Russian sage, summer phlox and daylilies.

These proven-over-time plants are the staples in our summer gardens and rightly so. But there are other underused perennials that should be considered when creating a new space or renovating

an existing garden. Here are a few of my summer favourites:

Bear's Breeches – Acanthus mollis: If the Latin name "Acanthus" sounds familiar to you, that is because the shape of its leaves has been used as a big part of Roman and Greek architecture for centuries. Although this Zone 6 perennial will tolerate full sun, I find that it thrives best in a light shade with an evenly moist soil. It's very large, glossy, dark green, thistle-shaped leaves makes a bold statement on their own, but then in mid-July the plant will push up three to five feet tall, sturdy stalks with showy, purple and white flowers. It is sure

to be the centre of attention in any garden.

Leopard Plant – Ligularia: There are several species of Ligularia available to purchase and although their leaf and flower shapes vary greatly, they all have very large, lush leaves and bloom mid- to late summer with yellow to orange coloured flowers which can either be in a spike form or as black-eyed susan-like form. They prefer to be planted in a moist to boggy soil. They are a great addition to any part shade or shade garden.

Two of the most popular varieties of Ligularia are "bottle rocket" and Ligularia dentata "Britt Marie Crawford" that sports large, round burgundy leaves with

orange black-eyed Susan like flowers.

Dwarf Torchlily (Red Hot Poker) – Kniphofia: For many years, the Red Hot Pokers were a common sight in the perennial border, but like so many plants, it seemed to have lost favour with gardeners. Over the last five years or so though, there has been a revival with the addition of new dwarf varieties as well as some long blooming and repeat blooming cultivars. The colours range from yellow through different shades of orange to red. Red hot pokers prefer a full sun location with a drier, sandy type soil. The different varieties range in height from 18 inches to three

feet. For that fresh summer look I like a combination of orange flowers beside something with a bright lime coloured foliage such as lime coralbells or golden barberry.

Sneezeweed (aka 'Helen's Flower') – Helenium autumnale: Contrary to this plant's common name, this fabulous native perennial flower does not make you sneeze. In the ancient day they used to dry the leaves making a snuff to induce sneezing to rid one of evil spirits. Hardy to zone 3, sneezeweed will provide you with six to eight weeks of flowers from late July into September. The late pollinators, such as bumble bees, are attracted

to the flowers in preparation for their winter hibernation. This plant enjoys growing in a sunny location with evenly moist soil.

A few other less commonly used perennials worthy of mention are: perennial hibiscus, crocosmia, butterfly weed and agastache. So, if you are finding that your garden is in need of summer sizzle, consider some of these plants to perk up your garden in August.

Joanne Young is president of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society. For 30 years, she worked as a garden designer/consultant at Mori Gardens in NOTL, leading seminars and workshops on many gardening topics. Since the closing of the garden centre in December 2020, she has operated her own business designing gardens and coaching people on how to improve and properly care for their gardens. Gardening is truly her passion. She is writing this exclusive gardening column for The Lake Report. See her website at joanneyoung.ca.



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