

The Lake Report

Vol. 4, Issue 26 | July 1, 2021

‘Just believe us, that’s been the hardest’

“Even before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission we’ve been talking about how there were more children, we’ve always known that. We’ve been talking about how pervasive racism is, we’ve always known that. We’ve been talking about how there was an active plan to erase Indigenous people, and we’ve always known that. What’s been difficult is that for generations we’ve been saying this and Canadians have been going, ‘Well, no. That can’t be.’ They’re minimizing or diminishing it and trying to distance themselves.”

“This is shared history. The residential school discoveries aren’t about Indigenous people as much as they’re about what Canadians did.”

Karl Dockstader
Executive director
Niagara Regional Native Centre



Each of the 1,140 stars above represents an Indigenous child lost to Canada’s residential school system, in Kamloops, Cowessess and lesser known sites in Regina, Brandon and Lestock. These numbers are sure to grow.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RICHARD HARLEY

Editorial

Everyone is responsible, including the media, for ignoring residential school genocide.

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Dealing with tragedy

Columnist David Israelson says Canada Day is a time to start dealing with our Indigenous history.

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Calls for justice

Niagara’s Indigenous community is calling for active reconciliation, and is holding a sacred fire.

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Educate yourself

Indigenous lecturer says self-education is an important step toward making amends.

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Maxime Bernier speaks at 'anti-lockdown' rally

Attendees and speakers promote conspiracies and other fringe points of view

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Hundreds of people gathered at Queenston Heights in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Saturday for a political rally for Maxime Bernier, leader of the People's Party of Canada.

The event doubled as an anti-lockdown rally, with speakers also addressing a long list of concerns about COVID-19, Canada's safety measures, masks and vaccines — among other alt-right topics and conspiracy theories.

Across the field at the Queenston Heights bandshell, people could be heard talking about Donald Trump returning to office in the U.S., or randomly shouting the word "freedom," while others discussed false claims about vaccine death rates being alarmingly high.

Others held signs supporting debunked conspiracies about Bill Gates, calling Canada a "communist" country, and all around there were talks and unfounded fears of a planned "new world order," totalitarianism and complaints about freedom and vaccine passports.

No masks were seen among the crowd, including dozens of children and seniors.

The event had a minor focus on lockdowns, but ended up being more of a convoluted narrative featuring several alt-right fringe topics.

Welland resident Beata O'Connell, who runs an art studio in NOTL and has admitted she was operating illegally during lockdowns, helped to MC the event.

She spoke of her fears of Canada becoming a communist country and compared the democratic nation to her homeland of Poland, which she said she fled from for her freedom.

The event also saw disgraced pastor Henry Hildebrandt speak, along with Bernier and former Progressive Conservative MPP Randy Hillier.

Hildebrandt and his Church of God in Aylmer, Ont., has been charged several times with operating full church gatherings in violation of COVID-19 safety measures.

Bernier was arrested for attending an anti-lockdown rally in Manitoba in June and Hillier was removed from his position with the PC party for making "disrespectful comments to parents of children with autism," according to Premier Doug Ford.

The People's Party of Canada won no seats in Parliament in the 2019 election.



Top: Beata O'Connell, a known anti-masker and vaccine denier, speaks at a political rally for Maxime Bernier. Bottom left: Pastor Henry Hildebrandt, former Progressive Conservative Randy Hillier and People's Party of Canada leader Maxime Bernier. Bottom right: People could be seen with signs supporting baseless, fringe theories about COVID-19.

NOTL couple accused in \$2M school board fraud

Staff
The Lake Report

Three people face fraud-related charges after an eight-month investigation by Niagara Regional Police into financial activities at the District School Board of Niagara.

The charges involve allegations of false invoicing, diverting revenue and other offences between 2003 and 2019, investigators said.

In all, police said the school board lost \$2.1 million.

Former DSBN chief information officer Dino Miele,

62, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, and former IT department employee Alex Hagopian, 58, are charged with one count each of fraud over \$5,000, conspiracy to commit an indictable offence and possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000.

Miele's wife Peggy, 60, faces one count of possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000.

Earlier this year, the school board launched a \$4.2 million lawsuit against the Mieles, Hagopian and two other people, alleging



Former DSBN chief technology officer Dino Miele. TWITTER

that \$2.24 million was lost or redirected from the board to businesses that financially benefited Miele.

Ontario on Step 2 of reopening

Staff
The Lake Report

It's time for a haircut.

The province is entering Stage 2 of reopening on Wednesday, which means people can now gather in groups of 25 outdoors and groups of five indoors.

Outdoor dining now allows for six people per table and essential retail stores can now have 50 per cent capacity inside.

Non-essential retail stores are capped at 25 per cent capacity.

Stores within shopping malls are also allowed to reopen, with restrictions.

Religious ceremonies, including weddings and funerals, can now have up to 25 per cent capacity.

Overnight camps will also be allowed to open.

Hairdressers and other personal services are allowed to operate at 25 per cent capacity, with face masks required at all times.

Outdoor meeting and event spaces, sports games, libraries and amusement parks can operate at 25 per cent capacity.

Outdoor cinemas, performing arts, live music events and attractions can open at 25 per cent capacity.

People are still being encouraged to get their first dose of vaccine if they haven't done so already.

Anyone who has had a first shot is also now eligible to book a second shot.

"I am pleased that the number of vaccines is high for our province," said Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

"This means that people are taking care of themselves and others and are doing their part to contribute towards our combined effort to move past COVID-19 and enter a consistent stage of recovery."

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What's on July 1

Rotary pop-up barbecue

When: Thursday, July 1, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Where: United Mennonite Church parking lot
1775 Niagara Stone Rd.

Canada Day scavenger hunt with Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre

When: Thursday, July 1.
Where: www.niagarapumphouse.ca/news/canada-day-art-scavenger-hunt

Virtual Canada Day with Fort George

When: Thursday, July 1, all day
Where: www.friendsoffortgeorge.ca
Virtual schedule:

- 8 a.m. — Welcome from Parks Canada and the Friends of Fort George
- 9 a.m. — The Greater Niagara Escarpment Indigenous Cultural Map: Indian Council House
- 10 a.m. — The History of Fort George
- 11 a.m. — Story Time with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library
- Noon — Messages from dignitaries
- 1 p.m. — Mad science with Quantum Kyle (advance registration required)
- 2 p.m. — Colouring pages from Zig Misiak, award-winning Canadian author
- 3 p.m. — 41st Regiment of Foot Fife and Drum Corps Presentation
- 4 p.m. — Mini Militia program
- 5 p.m. — The Greater Niagara Escarpment Indigenous Cultural Map: The Landscape of Nations
- 6 p.m. — Singing of O Canada
- 7 p.m. — Music from More Bad News and the Horns from Hell

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Ryerson Park likely to get name change

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

As NOTL grapples with Canada's scandal over the history of residential schools, the town's Ryerson Park may soon see its name changed.

While the nation continues to reckon with its violent residential school history, Lord Mayor Betty Disero acknowledged the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's failure to address the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the past and hopes it can do more in the future.

In 2016, the town declared a year of reconciliation in hopes of taking meaningful action on issues that Indigenous Peoples in Canada and Niagara face.

Nothing much came from that, according to Karl Dockstader, executive director of the Niagara Regional Native Centre on Airport Road in NOTL.

There wasn't any "substantive action," he told The Lake Report.

Disero, a councillor in 2016, put forward that motion but admits the town has not followed through.



The town will consult with the native centre on new name, says Lord Mayor Betty Disero. SUPPLIED

"I could have done more," Disero said in an interview.

That is changing and the town will be meeting with representatives from the native centre in about two weeks to talk about the "recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation commission and to see what the town can do," she said.

While Disero refrained from offering specifics until the talks have taken place, she said the name of Ryerson Park could soon change.

She confirmed that the park was named after Egerton Ryerson,

criticized as one of the architects of the residential school system, and that renaming the park will possibly be addressed at council's next committee of the whole meeting.

"We need to work with the Niagara Regional Native Centre on a new name," she said.

Disero did not want to stop at renaming the park for fear of erasing an important part of the residential school narrative.

"We also need to have some sort of posting or identification as to why it was changed," she said.

"That way we're not just cancelling out the park, we're actually explaining to people what happened in our history."

A growing number of people across the country also have called for Canada Day celebrations to be cancelled.

NOTL's official Canada Day plans already have been cancelled because of COVID-19, Disero said.

She said municipal flags are remaining at half-mast to honour the thousands of children whose remains have been discovered on residential school properties across the country.

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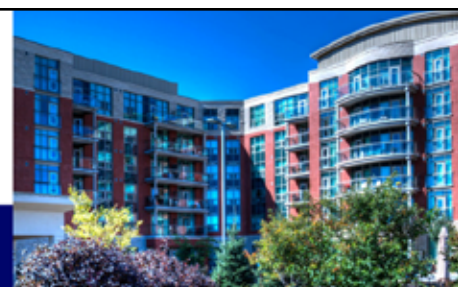
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Canada The Local Journalism Initiative is funded by the Government of Canada.

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases: 3
Region active cases: 163
Region deaths: 414
Region total cases: 16,208
Region resolved cases: 15,631

*June 29 data per Niagara Region Public Health



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"There are only two days in the year when nothing can be done. One is called yesterday and the other is called tomorrow. So today is the right day to love, believe and mostly live." - Dali Lama.

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Editorials: Shining a light on atrocities

Richard Harley
 Editor-In-Chief

I'm not proud of it, but it doesn't change the fact that as a citizen and a journalist, I am partly responsible for not shining a bright light on the atrocities committed at Canada's residential schools.

Last year, staff at the Angel Inn contacted The Lake Report about their day for staff to wear orange in support of the Indigenous community. When I heard about it, I thought it can't possibly be as bad as they say or literally everyone in the country would be wearing an orange shirt, not just the staff at one Niagara-on-the-Lake restaurant. Students at Royal Oak also wore orange.

And we published the photos. But we didn't give it the attention it deserved.

Part of me didn't believe, or didn't want to believe,

Canada was responsible for something so reprehensible. Part of me wanted to think these people were being told exaggerated stories.

Part of me was dead wrong. Looking back, I'm not sure why the topic was so easily dismissed. I remember being told of the children being ripped from their families, of cultural genocide of Indigenous traditions and ways of life.

Yet, I did almost nothing.

Sure, we published the photos. But much like the remains of the Indigenous children recently discovered, they were buried in the back of the paper. With today's Canada Day edition front page, we hope to symbolically draw attention to this neglected tragedy.

Whether it was ingrained in me to think Canada couldn't possibly have acted so badly for de-

acades, or whether it was white privilege, or both, I'm ashamed of it.

And the same could be said for a lot of the country's media.

Where were the journalists when these kids were being abused and buried? Where were the scholars to read the countless books on the atrocities? Where were the artists to write songs of protest?

We were asleep at the wheel and now it's our job to make sure we get it right — to make sure these stories are told and the truth of our history is revealed.

To say now is the right time, is misguided. Back then, when it was happening, was the right time.

Last year when approached by people who were more enlightened than myself and passionate about reconciliation — that was the right time.

Now, it's just the time.

It's not right, not wrong.

But now is the time to make sure we are loud and ferocious to demand better from our country. To demand amends be made — and people and institutions held to account.

Now is the time to get history right.

But now is also the time to accept Canadian society's role in letting these tragedies occur. And to accept to fix the litany of problems Indigenous Peoples still face.

It's time to demand our country put to rest those souls we lost and ensure all available documents are made public.

If we work toward a better future for all, and not close our eyes to such atrocities, we can make sure we don't let anything like this happen again.

We can change the world, starting now.

editor@niagaranow.com

'Freedom' rally was filled with convoluted nonsense

Richard Harley
 Editor-In-Chief

The people who attended the anti-lockdown rally on the weekend should be ashamed and embarrassed.

Regardless of your stance on lockdowns, the rally was a catalyst for every trope you can imagine of alt-right, dark web, fringe and down-right idiotic conspiracy theories.

Speakers seemed not to be able to pick a topic, and rather than being against lockdowns, it became a cesspool of misinformation.

A cacophony of dangerous ideas that leave anyone without the ability to think critically in a worse place.

There were children, teens and seniors in the crowd. Not one person wore a mask.

Within the first minute of arriving at Queenston Heights, someone confronted our reporter (me) for wearing a mask.

"This is a mask-free zone, buddy," said one angry guy who looked like he was on steroids.

When I didn't bother to address him, he said, "Prob-



ably a left-winger."

Such is the attitude of the people attending these types of rallies.

People were talking about Donald Trump getting back into office this term like there is actually a chance of that happening.

People were spreading false information to each other about vaccine-related deaths (out of more than 31 million doses in Canada, only 1,719 have had serious adverse effects. That's about 0.005 per cent of all doses administered).

Church groups visited and preached outdated, unscien-

tific rhetoric about vaccines.

Beata O'Connell, the woman who admitted to running maskless art classes for children in NOTL during lockdowns in March, preached falsely that Canada is becoming a communist state. On the contrary, democracy is very much alive.

And socialist principles have always been a priority for Canada, so nothing has changed.

Maxime Bernier soaked up the opportunity to pander to the crowd of dolts, most of whom didn't appear to know the difference between a political rally and a protest.

One kind person threatened to slap me for taking photos in a public park. Another suggested he would just steal my camera.

Luckily, that didn't happen.

Another person accused me of wearing a mask to "conceal" my identity and apparently didn't "feel comfortable" with me taking photos, and asked me to leave. When I said it's a free public park, she got visibly upset and told me again to leave.

The irony that they were supposed to be rallying for freedom must have been lost on her.

And any rational person should have known the mask isn't for anonymity, it was for protection against a sea of Darwin Award nominees.

Others filled their fantasies about Bill Gates trying to establish a "new world order," without the knowledge that the man has almost single-handedly eradicated malaria from the face of the planet.

Stupidity was in abundance. And it was alarming, saddening and sort of scary.

So what can we do about it? Well, nothing really.

Contrary to what these folks tell each other, Canada still is a free country. We have the right to assemble, we have the right to believe whatever we want, no matter how illegitimate.

I'm glad I was there to tell this story. But it's a sad chapter in human history and I'm not sure it's possible to fix or counter-balance the ignorance of these people.

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Tragedy **mirrors** other church scandals

Dear editor:

During the early days of the pedophile priest scandals, what we all thought were isolated cases turned out to be, and continues to this day, a systemic issue and scab within the Catholic church.

Today, as millions worldwide bear witness to the tip of the iceberg of the Indigenous grave scandal here in Canada, this too is being exposed as a systemic issue.

One has only to educate oneself with the scandals in Ireland, which shattered the reputation of the Catholic church, over the pedophile priests, mother and baby homes, and the Magdalene Laundries run by the evil Sisters of Mercy, to see how the Indigenous grave scandal in Canada mirrors Rome's reactions and coverup.

As reported by NBC in January this year, some 9,000 unmarked graves were discovered at homes and laundries in Ireland,

800 alone at a mass grave at a home in Tuam, Galway. That site was exposed by Tuam historian Catherine Corless.

These scandals laid bare some of the darkest chapters in the church's history and moved the current and several former Irish prime ministers to strongly condemn the church.

One such PM, Leo Varadkar, in the presence of Pope Francis during his Irish visit and Catholic church crisis in August 2018, said, "It's time to move the Catholic church from the center of society."

Previously, he stated in an article reported in the New York Times in December 2017: "The scandals led to the demise of the Catholic church." And former PM Enda Kenny condemned the Vatican "for managing the rape and torture of children and frankly brazen disregard for child protection."

No other church in history has done more harm

to the innocent, vulnerable and trusting children (who depend on adult guidance, protection, nurturing and love the most), than the Catholic church.

Fast-forward to 2021: our PM, Justin Trudeau, addressing the Indigenous crisis, is echoing the same outrage at Rome and the Pope, which is similarly falling on deaf ears. Clearly the church is continuing its unabated practice of child abuse, and to date, with apparent immunity from prosecution for crimes against humanity, from the International Criminal Court in the Hague.

Reportedly, as a consequence of the Irish scandals, some 70 per cent of Irish Catholics turned their backs on the church, a shocking statistic given that Pope Paul VI once called Ireland the most Catholic country in the world, a fact no longer true today.

The Catholic church (Rome), the largest non-governmental land owner

in the world has, at this juncture, remained silent on the Indigenous search.

The church has neither apologized nor offered any funding for these grave searches (another scandal of the church's making), consequently the Canadian taxpayer could be left footing the bill.

This is outrageous and scandalous in its own right.

The church has been riddled with ever more shocking scandals for centuries. Over the past few decades, with social media etc., the world can now bear witness, in real time, to the detailed exposure of these atrocities, which some victims have called genocide.

Will the Canadian grave count exceed that of Ireland and will Canadian worshippers' reactions also mirror that of Ireland?

Practising Catholics deserve better from their church leaders in Rome.

*Samuel Young
NOTL*

Ryerson Park's name **should not** be changed

Dear editor:

I enjoy Ross Robinson's cheerful articles but object to his call to remove Egerton Ryerson's name from the park in Niagara-on-the-Lake ("Town needs to rename Ryerson Park," June 7).

I also object to removing Ryerson's name from the university in Toronto.

Communists and other dictatorships wipe out history recurrently.

In the Toronto Star debate on June 12, Indigenous Prof. Lila Rice argues Ryerson wanted free

public education "for white boys only" and he believed the "North American Indian cannot be civilized."

Pine also scapegoats Rev. Egerton Ryerson and Christianity for the abuses against the Indigenous students in the residential schools. She also supported the activists who defaced and toppled Ryerson's statue on the campus. She writes from X University.

On the other side of the debate, Prof. Ron Stagg, from the same university, declares Ryerson blameless, saying he advocated

free public education, was a missionary to the Mississaugas, taught them to "love thy neighbour" and added agriculture etc. to the curriculum as they wished. They appreciated him.

Ryerson died five years before the first of the residential schools opened.

Certainly people of all religions, including secularism, denounce the sadistic, pedophilic and hypocritical criminals who abused Indigenous children in many residential schools. This should have been prevented.

I caution Rice, Prof. Pamela Pamer (who has spoken on TVO) and journalists like Elizabeth Rizzetti of the Globe and Mail not to spread hatred against innocent Canadians, past and present, which encourages activists and arsonists to smash statues and burn historic wooden churches. Five have now been burned and I caution all to guard our historic buildings.

Yes, Truth will lead to Reconciliation and Justice.

*Elizabeth Oliver-Malone
NOTL*

Rainbow crosswalk is a **good idea** for town

Dear editor:

I was most interested in the story about the wish for a rainbow crosswalk to be painted on the roadway "in the heart of the Old Town."

It is perfect timing as June was both Pride month and Indigenous month.

As NOTL resident Jordan Williams points out, it

expresses inclusivity. Several cities and towns in Ontario have already done so. Niagara College was a leader in Niagara for putting the first rainbow walk on their campus, I believe.

In the last weeks I have noted signs on private lawns with a replica of the rainbow in the heart of downtown St. Catharines.

These signs have small print on them Chris Bittle, MP for St. Catharines. That certainly expresses Bittle's support for diversity.

I think it also signals a fall election, but I could be wrong. It just might signal Bittle's support of these important issues.

Sadly, the recently

finished St. Catharines rainbow crosswalk already has been defaced.

Ironically, this news was received on the same day The Lake Report had its article on the hope of NOTL residents for a similar walkway. I wish us all luck.

*Gail Benjafield
St. Catharines*

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Canada Day a time to start **dealing with** Indigenous tragedy

David Israelson
Special to The Lake Report

What should we do about Canada Day 2021?

It's hard for anyone with a conscience not to be conflicted about it this year.

Cities, towns, communities and individuals across the country are going through a lot of soul-searching as Canadians come to grips with a lot of ugly facts about our history. We have a lot to be proud of as Canadians, but we also have some big areas that more and more of us are looking at with horrible shame.

And nowhere is our history more shameful than in the relationship with Indigenous Peoples.

There are so many difficulties that arise from the discovery of hundreds of children's graves at residential schools that it's hard to know where to start. Probably the first place is to register shock, sorrow and sympathy. What a terrible, sad crime.

It's worse because it was a crime that was committed in plain sight and in the name of Canadians —



Children's shoes at St. Michael Catholic School honour Indigenous children. FILE PHOTO

residential schools were not a secret; they were government policy. This is compounded by the fact that these dens of injustice operated for decades, until the 1990s; if we didn't know better by then, the question is why?

There are layers and layers of horror to this story — how children were ripped away from their families, how this was done under the auspices of organized religion, how

it was justified time and again by leaders who many Canadians respected so much that we named schools after them, put up statues for them and put their faces on our money.

The questions now are: how can we celebrate this country while coming to grips with this darkness that dwells within? Should we celebrate at all? What should we do?

Even among reasonable, caring Canadians, there are

different schools of thought about this. Some people think it's inappropriate to do anything this year for Canada Day — how can we light fireworks, wave flags and eat cake when we have such a shameful past?

Others think we should go ahead anyway — sure, some terrible things were done in Canadians' names, and residential schools are among the most terrible.

But there are a lot of good things about Canada and

we need to recognize these too, according to this view.

I think this year, more than others, is a time not so much to celebrate, but to recognize and observe Canada on its birthday and to come to terms with the good and the bad.

Despite some truly evil aspects of our legacy, there are a lot of good things — actually great things — about Canada, and we should not discount these or take them for granted. A milestone like Canada Day is a chance to note these.

We don't "celebrate" Remembrance Day on Nov. 11, for example — it's a serious day that we use to thank people who sacrificed for us and to be thankful for the better lives their sacrifices have enabled most of us to enjoy.

We should be thankful this year that our country, at age 154, is mature enough that we're starting to come to grips with the bad parts of our history.

"Start" is the operative word. Apologies are in order as well as shame and sorrow, regardless of whether the appalling

legacy of Indigenous relations in Canada occurred generations before we were born or right under our noses today.

We should keep in sight what happened yesterday and, regrettably, still happens — seriously, how many years before every First Nation has proper drinking water? What's taking so long?

But Canada Day — and Canada itself — should be about tomorrow too. How can we make the future better?

Here's a suggestion. Let's listen.

Indigenous Peoples in Canada are rich in tradition, history, culture and ideas, and sometimes it feels like many Canadians never really noticed. Now, more than ever before, it's time to take the opportunity and pay attention to this wonderful wellspring and welcome it to the centre of Canadian life.

That would be good for everyone this Canada Day ... and the day after too.

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident David Israelson is a non-practising lawyer, writer and consultant.

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Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Ball's Beach stone breakwater is repaired but not yet cleared for public use, says Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

After a prolonged closure when part of the breakwater – known as a groyne – collapsed into Lake Ontario, repair teams were brought in to haul the heavy stones out of the water on Saturday.

Repairs were complete by Monday, Disero said.

But the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake will not be opening the area for public

use until an engineer has inspected the site. Disero hopes that is done before Canada Day.

The repairs are a temporary measure and more work likely will need to be done in the future.

"I suspect this will last us the summer," Disero told The Lake Report.

The breakwater at Ball's Beach was constructed in 2020. Its collapse could result in litigation between the town and Rankin Construction Inc., which built the breakwater.

"There's discussions ongoing. I'm sure we'll get a report at our next committee of the whole," Disero said.



A failed rock groyne at Ball's Beach was repaired during the weekend. RON SIMKUS

Shaw Festival adds **new series** of outdoor shows, concerts

Staff
The Lake Report

Outdoors @ The Shaw, a new series of concerts and events, will debut on July 10 on the grounds of the Festival Theatre and Royal George Theatre.

In a nod to Shaw Fair and Fête festivities of the past, the outdoor season is part carnival, part theatre celebration, the Shaw said in announcing the details of the season.

New outdoor performance spaces with limited capacities – the BMO Stage, Humeniuk Foundation Stage, Royal George Theatre's Gallery Patio, Nona Macdonald Stage, affectionately known as "Nona's tent," and the Festival Theatre grounds – will host concerts and unique theatrical experiences.

Outdoors @ The Shaw is in addition to the open-air performances of "The Devil's Disciple" at the Nona Macdonald Stage, "Flush" at the Humeniuk Foundation Stage, "Charley's Aunt" at the BMO Stage and the Shaw Festival's presentation of "A Short History of Niagara" at both the Humeniuk and BMO stages.

"It's thrilling to feel the buzz of activity and anticipation," said artistic director Tim Carroll.

"If these 15+ months have taught us anything, it's that



The Shaw's new outdoor tent will be used for performances. TIM TAYLOR/FILE PHOTO

we all dearly miss real human encounters and shared experiences," he added.

"With this in mind, specially produced performances, concerts and curated events have been created for our audience. It's been a long and enduring journey and now it's time to say: Welcome back."

In order to ensure health and safety protocols are followed, the Shaw said it plans to keep audience numbers to all performances under capacity limits and will continue to follow and exceed all government COVID-19 health regulations.

Tickets for the new outdoor shows are on sale now online at shawfest.com or the box office to Friends of the Shaw and the public on July 6. The shows include:

*"Gatsby's Jazz, Sonny's Blues": Directed by Philip Akin, the BMO Stage, 10 Queen's Parade on the Commons, with 17 per-

formances from July 10 to Oct. 8.

It includes excerpts from F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel and James Baldwin's story. Featured songs include "Beale Street Blues," "Ain't We Got Fun," the gospel hymn, "If Only I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again" and "Am I Blue?" Tickets \$35 or \$30 under 30.

*"The Duke And Two Irene's": Directed and choreographed by Kimberley Rampersad, Festival Theatre grounds, south lawn patio, 10 Queen's Parade, with 14 performances from July 14 to Oct. 7.

The music of Duke Ellington returns in a new revue that also includes songs by Irene Higginbotham and Irene Kitchings, two 20th-century African-American songwriters and musicians with ties to singer Billie Holiday. Songs include "Good Morning Heartache," "Some Other

Spring," "Satin Doll" and "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)." Tickets are \$35 or \$30 under 30.

*"Chitra": A one-act play by Rabindranath Tagore, directed by Kimberley Rampersad, Royal George Theatre Gallery Lawn and Gardens, 85 Queen St., with six performances July 15 to 31.

Gabriella Sundar Singh is Chitra, warrior princess. Determined to win the heart of Prince Arjuna, she asks the gods Mandana and Vasanta to cloak her fighting virtuosity with such beauty he would never leave her side. Based on a tale from the Mahabharata and written by Nobel Laureate Tagore. Tickets are \$35 or \$30 under 30.

*Coffee Concerts: The Humeniuk Foundation Stage, 10 Queen's Parade, with nine performances July 17 to Sept. 30. Classical music concerts

performed by a string quartet and members of the Shaw Festival Orchestra. Tickets are \$10.

*"Assassins In Concert": Book by John Weidman, music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, based on an idea by Charles Gilbert Jr. and directed by Kate Hennig. On the BMO Stage for 12 performances, July 18 to Sept. 29.

Nine people have tried to kill an American president, four have succeeded and Stephen Sondheim created a darkly comic musical revue about it. A carnival of the macabre where assassins and would-be assassins – from John Wilkes Booth to Sara Jane Moore – tell their side of the story. Tickets \$50 or \$30 under 30.

*"Fairground": Curated by Sanjay Talwar, created by the Shaw Ensemble, Festival Theatre grounds for 14 performances, July 23 to Oct. 8.

A guided ramble through the lush Festival Theatre grounds complete with welcoming fanfare and filled with the sensory delights of music, provided by a five-piece band; poetry, dance, and culminating with an exhilarating finale. Weather dependent. Tickets are \$35 or \$30 under 30 and \$10 for youth.

*"Speakeasies": The BMO Stage for three performances, on July 22, Aug. 7 and Sept. 18. An evening of jazz featuring associate music director Ryan

deSouza and members of the Shaw Festival Orchestra, with special guests. Tickets are \$20.

*"Shawground": Curated by Sanjay Talwar, created by the Shaw Ensemble. On the Festival Theatre grounds, for 10 performances from Aug. 19 to Oct. 6.

An hour-long, Victorian fair-inspired guided jaunt through the Festival Theatre grounds features the wit and charm of Bernard Shaw and a few Shavian surprises. Weather dependent. Tickets are \$35 or \$30 under 30 and \$10 for youth.

*"What's In Your Songbook?": The Nona Macdonald Stage, 10 Queen's Parade, parking lot tent for two performances, July 28 and Aug. 22.

An intimate and interactive evening with members of the Shaw acting ensemble. Performers open up their audition songbooks and reveal why those choices are so special to them. Tickets \$20.

*"Kreutzer Sonata": The Humeniuk Foundation Stage, for seven performances, Aug. 26 to Oct. 9.

In 1805, Ludwig van Beethoven dedicated Violin Sonata No. 9, Op. 47 to Rodolphe Kreutzer, a violinist internationally renowned for his virtuosity. This sonata then inspired Leo Tolstoy's harrowing novella, "The Kreutzer Sonata." Tickets \$35 or \$30 under 30.



Pauline Reimer Gibson
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Commons off-leash dog park is **under review**

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Complaints about dog owners not picking up after their pets, conflicts between owners and other users, and concerns about dogs chasing wildlife have prompted Parks Canada to review allowing pets to use the Commons as an off-leash dog park.

Parks Canada has received about two dozen complaints in recent months, and about an equal number of supportive messages from dog owners saying that having the run of the Commons is invaluable to owners and pets, said Lisa Curtis, superintendent of national historic sites for southwestern Ontario.

The agency “continues to review the public use of heritage properties and all our multi-use trails in the Niagara historic site,” Curtis said in an interview.

“We’re trying to explore ways to best ensure the safety and enjoyment for everyone.”

The organization is soliciting comments via email at pc.niagaraont.pc@canada.ca or by phone at



Local dog Lila plays in the Commons. FILE PHOTO

905-468-6614, to determine if the off-leash practice will continue.

The review likely will be completed by mid-summer and she encouraged people to pass along their comments or concerns.

“We want to gather information and consider the different options. We just want it to be safe and enjoyable,” Curtis said.

Parks Canada has informally permitted the Commons to be used as an off-leash area for many years, but with population

growth in Niagara-on-the-Lake – and the COVID-19 pandemic – the property has been attracting a lot more visitors.

Besides dog poop problems – some parts of the Commons are littered with droppings – interactions between dogs and native wildlife, and conflicts between users are concerning, she said.

“It’s not a great thing if your dog is chasing deer or chasing birds out of their nesting areas,” Curtis said. “We have to think about

the natural side of things” as well as people’s desire to use the Commons trails for walking, biking and exercising their dogs.

As well, Parks Canada staff operating tractors and other equipment have reported several “near-misses” with dogs running free.

“When they operate the heavy lawn equipment, sometimes dogs are coming towards the blades and we get quite nervous about that.”

Besides comments from the public, various departments of Parks Canada are being asked for their ideas, she said.

The agency doesn’t want to rush into a decision, “but we’re striving in the next couple of months to get something out to the public.”

Curtis said no separate fenced-off area would be created on the Commons to accommodate off-leash dogs.

Dog lovers posted signs in late March warning owners to contact Parks Canada to “save our off-leash area.”

The Commons is the only official off-leash area for dogs in NOTL.

Teen gets conditional sentence for spraying **protesters** with urine

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

A Niagara-on-the-Lake teenager who sprayed urine on horse protesters in Old Town last year has been given a conditional discharge and ordered to perform 75 hours of community service.

Austin Gould, now 19, had been charged with three counts of assault with a weapon when he sprayed Sherry Bowman, Adam Stirr and Jason King during an Aug. 23 demonstration against the use of horses to pull carriages in the Heritage District.

The victims were all members of At War For Animals Niagara, a group that has been staging protests for three years in NOTL urging an end to the use of the horses to pull the carriages.

The group believes animals such as horses should be considered “non-human persons” and

that the horse-and-carriage service is a form of slavery. Members also would like all humans to be vegan.

On the day of the incident, animal rights activists and pro-carriage supporters met in the streets of NOTL to vocally share their opposing views.

After the charges were laid, Niagara Regional Police said they sent the sprayed substance to the Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto for testing and analysis.

Gould pleaded guilty in April to one charge of assault against Bowman and the other two charges were withdrawn by the Crown.

Ontario Court Justice Fergus O’Donnell on June 21 handed down the conditional discharge sentence and also ordered Gould to serve nine months of probation.

As part of his sentence, Gould is not allowed to have any contact with the victims.

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Mounting child death toll from residential schools increases calls for **justice, empathy**

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

As more children's remains are located on residential school properties across the country, the Indigenous community in Niagara is rallying for calls to action and gathering for solemn grieving.

The Niagara Regional Native Centre started a seven-day sacred fire last Friday to honour the dead children discovered on old residential school sites.

The centre had an air of solemnity about it as Indigenous and non-Indigenous people gathered to find healing around the sacred fire.

"I can't think of any Indigenous person in my circle that isn't somehow affected by residential schools," the centre's executive director, Karl Dockstader, said in an interview at the fire.

The sacred fire is a traditional ceremony held by Indigenous communities to promote wellness and healing. Earlier, after the bodies of 215 children were found on the property of the Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia, the centre held a 24-hour sacred fire.

With the recent discovery of 751 bodies at the Marieval Indian Residential school in Saskatchewan, this new sacred fire will last a week. There will always be a fire-keeper tending it, through the wind, rain, night and day.

"You get connected to the land. You don't have to be a spiritual person in an Indigenous sense to appreciate the growth," Dockstader said about the sacred fire.

"It's a point where Indigenous and non-Indigenous people connect."

The discoveries at residential schools have grown even more painful for Indigenous communities.

"The scale is getting shocking," Dockstader said.

But the trauma of residential school systems is not just Indigenous history. Canadians have to recognize it is the legacy of their country's actions, he said.

"This is shared his-



Firekeeper Ray Burns stokes the sacred fire at the Niagara Regional Native Centre on Tuesday. EVAN SAUNDERS

tory. The residential school discoveries aren't about Indigenous people as much as they are about what Canadians did."

Dockstader said that having Canadians educate themselves about the residential school system is important, but the key thing is earnestly listening to Indigenous Peoples.

"Just believe us, that's what's been the hardest. Even before the TRC, we've been talking about how there was more children, we've been talking about how pervasive racism is, we've been talking about how there was an active plan to erase Indigenous people," he said.

"What's been difficult is that, for generations we've been saying this and Canadians have said, 'Well, that can't be.' You're diminishing and minimizing it."

Keeping the fire for seven straight days is no easy task, but in such times of pain firekeeper Fred Bowering is wholeheartedly committed.

"I'll be here for the whole seven days. I'll maybe leave for an hour to feed my dog," Bowering said.

He said truth and reconciliation are important, but feels an even more important word often gets left out of the equation.

"Justice. Truth, reconciliation AND justice," he said.

An increasing number of people are calling for a Canada Day boycott in light of the horrors at residential schools.

"It's like having a party at your house while your next-door neighbour is having a funeral," Dockstader said

about the national holiday.

"It's not a tasteful move, especially when there are thousands of Indigenous people living in Niagara."

The Canadian government built the residential school system. What is frustrating for Dockstader is that the pathway to reconciliation has already been laid and yet the government refuses to walk it.

The government needs to "follow the recommendations (of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission)."

It isn't only the federal government that Dockstader is frustrated with. He criticized a lack of action from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, as well.

"In 2016, (Niagara-on-the-Lake) marked a year of reconciliation – they put a motion through."

Unfortunately, "nothing really happened. It wasn't followed by any substantive action."

Dockstader acknowledged that many landmark events in Canadian history took place in the Niagara region. He said he understands Canadian pride in the area as a product of that.

"But as we're learning, through people like Egerton Ryerson and John A. Macdonald, that history is problematic," he said.

Dockstader emphasized individuals need to come to these conclusions on their own, by way of self-educating and listening to Indigenous Peoples and leaders.

More difficult than dealing with the Canadian government or non-Indigenous

people for Dockstader and the Indigenous community has been the Catholic church.

"It's so complex," he said, struggling for a way to articulate the chasm the church has created between itself and the accusations stemming from their century and a half of running residential schools.

"The Catholic church has done a pretty shitty job of handling all of this, (from residential schools) to contemporary times," he said.

"You can't draw blood from a stone. They don't see that they're problematic, so I don't even know where a good starting point with them is."

In the face of this overwhelming grief, Dockstader couldn't help but notice the dualities taking place around him at the sacred fire as some people grieved while others enjoyed company.

There's "people here that are grieving and I'm thinking how awkward it must be, here I am laughing with my friends," he said.

"But then I realized that's how we cope. In the midst of the residential schools and while kids were being taken during the Sixties Scoop."

The Sixties Scoop was a period from the late 1950s until the 1980s when Canadian policy allowed child-care workers to take Indigenous children as young as newborns from their families to be put in non-Indigenous foster homes. It is estimated about 20,000 children were taken during this period.

Dockstader was almost one of them.

"My parents brought (me and my siblings) from Oneida and moved to Fort Erie," he said.

"The reason they did that is they were residential school children themselves. So, when the vehicles started to show up to take kids for the Sixties Scoop, they did the math about what was going to happen, and they left."

"They started their life here specifically to keep their kids from being apprehended. Otherwise, it would have been another generation taken, and who knows what after that."

Contactless parking payment coming to Heritage District

Staff
The Lake Report

Paying for parking in downtown NOTL is going digital.

Parking in the Heritage District is taking on a new form as the town prepares to roll out mobile parking payments in partnership with HonkMobile on July 5.

Contactless payments in the Heritage District only will be available in two forms. You can scan the QR code on Honk parking stations and pay with your phone or pay for your parking spot directly through the Honk mobile app.

"This payment option gives drivers a safe and easy way to pay for parking that doesn't require any app download or account set up," Lord Mayor Betty D'Amico said in a media release.

Council approved the rollout at its last meeting but rejected a staff recommendation that the first two-weeks come with a \$2



discount per licence plate to popularize the app.

Councillors felt the discount was an unnecessary loss of revenue for the town.

"This time in July, you're actually going to be giving up about \$12,000," Coun. Allan Bisback told councillors.

"We'd just be leaving money on the table. I think people will be more than happy to embrace the new system," Coun. Wendy Cheropita added.

Metred parking machines will still be available. Rates will be unchanged with the addition of a 25-cent convenience fee for parking payments made through the Honk app.

Music Niagara fundraiser debates pandemic merits of **Mozart** as healing tool

Staff
The Lake Report

Can Mozart soothe your pandemic ills?

Music Niagara presents its Great Debate and Dinner on July 13 and the question is: In a pandemic, all we need is Mozart, yes or no?

The debate will feature professional broadcasters, musicians, journalists and music critics debating the merits of Mozart in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Selections of Mozart's music will be played by pianist Victoria Kogan and violinist Atis Bankas.

The \$140 per person price tag includes a \$50 tax receipt, a link to watch the debate and a three-course meal from the Garrison House, Ravine Estate Winery and Ruffino's Pasta Bar and Grill.

The meal also comes with



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your choice of a bottle of wine or a non-alcoholic beverage and can be picked up from Ravine Estate Winery between 1 and 4 p.m. on July 13.

Buyers' names will be entered in a draw for the chance to win 40 bottles of wine.

To sign up, go to www.musicniagara.org/concerts/great-debate.

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Residents push to **restore** historic train repair pit in dock district

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake is on track to restore a piece of railway history in the heritage dock area.

Resident Ron Simkus, together with PGM Rail Services of Niagara Falls, wants to rebuild a historic section of railroad track known as the repair pit, which was decommissioned in 1926.

After several delays by town staff and councillors, the project is finally seeing the finish line.

It likely would be the only rail remnant in town, which has a mighty history as an important railway centre, says Simkus.

“The community, led by Ron, is looking at bringing back a little bit of our heritage to the dock area. I think it’s a wonderful idea,” Lord Mayor Betty Disero told The Lake Report in May.

Simkus, together with volunteers from PGM Rail Services, are offering their labour free to get the project done. PGM Rail Services is even donating the rail for installation, an authentic rail dating from 1900.

“All it’s going to cost me is a few beers and hamburgers,” Simkus said in an interview.

But the threat of bureaucratic delays loomed over the project.

“For some reason, we have to keep updating the plan because we can never implement it,” Disero said.

During a municipal heritage committee meeting on June 8, Kevin Turcotte, manager of parks and recreation, recommended the project be delayed until



Ron Simkus stands atop the old train repair pit down by the NOTL docks. EVAN SAUNDERS

the fall so the town could gather public opinion.

This led to some specific fears for Simkus.

He felt “we need to move very quickly, because PGM are very generous and are supplying all the material and labour for nothing,” Simkus said.

He was worried they would lose the donation.

Simkus rallied residents to voice their opinions on the plan directly to town council. By June 21, the town had received over 90 emails from 124 residents supporting the proposal.

“There has been a fair amount of community support through those many emails,” chief administrative officer Marnie Cluckie told council.

Councillors approved Simkus’ proposal but added the condition that archeo-

logical assessments be done on site before the work is implemented.

That was no problem for Simkus.

“I knew there was an obligation regarding archeology. Bring it on, we’ll do it,” he said.

The dock master plan aims to create a waterfront heritage trail starting in the dock area and extending west along the waterfront. A costly repair of the old railway turntable is part of this plan.

The turntable is a massive circular rotating platform north of the repair pit near the shore of Lake Ontario. Much of its original outline can still be viewed.

Trains would come down to the dock area along the west bank and park on the turntable. The engine would be detached from the cargo

and parked on the turntable, which would then be rotated so the engine could back into the repair pit.

The repair pit itself was part of a larger structure called the Engine House.

The rail pit itself functioned much like a modern-day grease pit in a mechanic’s shop. The area immediately underneath was dug out so engineers could service the locomotive. Because the dock area is a heritage site, Simkus doesn’t want to dig out the original pit.

The repair pit won’t be returned to its original working condition, but the original rail ties will be reinserted into slots in the concrete walls and the authentic rail will be put in place on top.

The long-standing mystery of what the repair pit

really was didn’t get solved until Simkus called in professionals from PGM.

“When the guys from PGM got here they said, ‘Oh, the rail ties go here and the track goes over here.’ They brought out a couple of old photographs and they looked at it and quickly said it was an 85-pound rail,” he said.

Once the original purpose of the repair pit was revealed, Simkus began putting together a plan to showcase it in a meaningful way.

“I asked them if they had any vintage rails and they said, ‘Oh yeah.’”

PGM, a railway salvage company, works with railway companies to salvage old sites and equipment, and has done restoration work for historic sites in Ontario.

“People at PGM are quite keen on collaborating with

us here to do a historic site that they would be proud of and more local to them,” Simkus told councillors during a presentation in May.

PGM Rail Services owner Peter Murdza used to live in NOTL and he wants to give back to the community, Simkus said.

As of now the tracks will be a stand-alone installation on top of the repair pit. But the project leaves room for future restoration of the turntable and dock area.

Since PGM and Simkus will be spearheading the operation, costs and work for the town will be limited to oversight, saving NOTL taxpayer dollars for other projects.

The town will be there to “ensure that whatever is put in place is safe for people and that whatever gets done matches up with our plan for the dock area,” Disero said.

But it is not pure altruism for Simkus; he has an admittedly personal reason for taking on the project.

“I’ve got two granddaughters now and I would love to be able to say to them in five years, ‘Do you know who did this?’ Being able to have my grandkids say, ‘Grandpa had a big part in this’ means a lot to me.”

Digging on the site will be limited to the removal of a few bucketfuls of soil to make space for the ties to be installed, Simkus said.

The retired mining engineer said he frequently is asked why he’s taking on these projects.

“And I say, ‘We’re all COVID sick. I don’t want to hear any more statistics about case counts. I want to hear about something good. We’re not dead yet.’”

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Mike Shatkosky
Owner



Hazel and Al Whitehead. BERNARD LANSBERGEN

Now that more and more people are getting vaccinated and there is finally a clear pathway out of this pandemic, we will periodically check in with different Niagara-on-the-Lake residents to see how COVID-19 has affected their lives – and what their hopes and dreams are for when things return to normal.

After the Pandemic Taking **back-to-back** cruises

Bernard Lansbergen
The Lake Report

Hazel and Al Whitehead, who live in Virgil, love to travel on cruises. “Normally we go twice a year,” says Hazel.

When COVID-19 broke out, the retired couple saw their roster of planned cruises all postponed to 2022, which means that they now have four cruises to go

on in one year.

“The first cruise is to Barcelona, (then) goes to Italy, Sicily and back to Barcelona. That was booked a year ago and got pushed to June 2022,” says Al.

“Then we’re leaving for Vancouver, to Alaska and (then) across to Japan and that’s two cruises back-to-back,” which Hazel adds were booked all the way back in 2019.

“And then we’ve (also) booked a Christmas market cruise from Budapest to Munich.”

When it comes to the couple’s travel plans for this year, all they are really hoping for is to see their son Mike again. He has been living in the Yukon for 11 years and Hazel and Al are planning to fly there for a visit this Christmas.

“That will be two and half

years we haven’t seen him,” says Al.

Without all their planned travel the couple has had to fill their time in other ways, but Al says they’ve managed to cope.

“You know, as a retired person, quite frankly it hasn’t changed our lives that drastically other than the travel and (the) golf courses when they close. The rest of it is kind of business as usual.”

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Last issue: My life can be measured in hours,
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Fat, I am slow. Wind is my foe. What am I?

Answer: A candle

Answered first by: Bill Hamilton

Also answered correctly (in order) by:
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Pam Dowling, Mary Drost, Sheila Meloche,
Sylvia Wiens, Charlotte and Gwendolyn Webber
Mayeda, Robert Wilms, Margie Enns,
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Chubey scores an ace in men's competition

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Rob Chubey notched the first recorded ace at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club this season, with a hole-in-one on the par-3 fourth hole last Thursday.

The shot came during the weekly men's league competition and it means the club will be cracking open a celebratory keg of beer, with Chubey helping to serve his fellow golfers, this Thursday.

"It was a windy day and with the pin up front, it was about 125 yards," Chubey said.

So he choked down on an 8-iron and "swung easy."

The ball was well-struck and headed right at the flag stick. But thanks to a large sand trap in front of the green, people on the tee couldn't see the hole.

"Brodie Townley, who was in my group, said, 'That's going to be close,'" Chubey recalled. And he was right.

When the foursome, including NOTL Golf Club owner John Wiens and Mark Edwards, walked up to the green, only three



Rob Chubey holds a commemorative flag celebrating his ace on the fourth hole at the NOTL Golf Club. It's signed by Chubey and playing partners John Wiens, Mark Edwards and Brodie Townley. KEVIN MACLEAN

balls were visible.

There was a ball mark about six feet in front of the hole and "I thought, 'Great, it hit and ran right over the green,'" Chubey said. But he was wrong.

He took a few steps and when he looked into the hole, there it was.

Elated – it's his second career ace, after holing one on the 19th hole at the Scarboro Golf and Country Club several years ago while playing as a guest – one of the first thoughts to cross his mind was, "I wonder how big the bar bill is going to be."

It's an age-old tradition for the lucky golfer who

scores a hole-in-one to buy a drink for everyone in the clubhouse afterward.

But head pro Billy Simkin told him because it happened during men's league play, the club will supply a keg for golfers the following week. It's been several years since there was an ace on men's day.

"I still had a pretty big tab that night, but it's a small price to pay," said Chubey.

The NOTL resident, who with his wife Valerie is a real estate agent, said he has seen at least a half-dozen holes-in-one over the years, including some pretty fluky ones that were poor shots that somehow found

their way into the cup.

"It's nice to have mine here on my home course and on men's night" with his golf buddies, Chubey said.

A lot of amateurs have been known to lose their composure after a shot like that.

Not Chubey. He followed it up with a par on the next hole – a long par 5 – and a respectable score of 40 for his nine-hole round.

Other winners: Peter Chilibeck led the men's league modified Stableford scoring, with 22 points, followed by Chubey, Bill Smith, Johnson Hu and Greg Keldson with 21 points each.

Mark Derbyshire and James Grigjanis-Meusel shared low-gross honours, each carding a 1-under par 35.

Gross skins winners (\$45 each) went to Tom Elltoft (#6), Brodie Townley (#8) and John Reynolds (#9). Net skins (\$100 each) were collected by Bill Baitinger (#3) and Keith Dexter (#7).

Closest to the pin on #4 was Chubey, of course, and Steve McMillan won it on #9.

\$90K upgrade approved for tennis courts before Canada Summer Games

Staff
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's tennis courts are getting an upgrade, just in time for the Canada Summer Games in 2022.

For the past few months the tennis club has been working with the Canada Games organizers and the Town of NOTL to determine the upgrades that will be necessary to host the 2022 Canada Games tennis event.

Town council last week gave final approval for enhancements to the six courts at Memorial Park.

Barry Wright, CEO of the Canada Summer Games, told councilors the group is ready to partner with the town to provide upgrades to facilities for the summer games during a committee of the whole meeting in June.

So far, \$90,000 has been made available to pay for the upgrades, with \$40,000 from the games committee and

\$50,000 from the town, according to the agreement made between the two parties.

"There will be long-lasting improvements to the tennis courts. I see this as a little bit of seed money to get us to a bigger synergistic result, and I thank you for that," Lord Mayor Betty Disero told council.

The \$50,000 amount includes resurfacing the four original courts to match the two new courts (all of the courts will be blue on green), night lighting for the two new courts, refinishing and painting the pavillion near the courts and improving parking facilities.

The upgrades will begin this fall and are expected to be completed by spring 2022, in time for the games in August.

"The club is honoured to be hosting such a prestigious event and to be the recipient of such significant legacy benefits," the message said.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING

PROCEEDING COMMENCED UNDER

Subsection 29(5) of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18, as amended

Owner: Solmar (Niagara 2) Inc.

Objector: Two Sisters Resorts Corp.

Subject: Notice of Intention to Designate

Property Address: 588 Charlotte Street

Legal Description: Lot 156 RCP 692 Niagara; Part Lot 145 RCP 692 Niagara Part 1 to 9, 30R8436; S/T RO718339, S/T RO413742, T/W RO413742 (PT 13, 30R1792 Except Pt 5, 30R8436)

Municipality: Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

OLT Case No. CRB1825

OLT Case Name: Two Sisters Resorts Corp. v. Niagara-on-the-Lake (Town)

PROCEEDING COMMENCED UNDER

Subsection 29(5) of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18, as amended

Owner: Solmar (Niagara 2) Inc.

Objector: Two Sisters Resorts Corp.

Subject: Notice of Intention to Designate

Property Address: 200 John Street East

Legal Description: Lot 145 RCP 692 Niagara Except Pt 1 to 9, 30R8436

Municipality: Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

OLT Case No. CRB1824

OLT Case Name: Two Sisters Resorts Corp. v. Niagara-on-the-Lake (Town)

Ontario Land Tribunal
655 Bay Street, Suite 150
Toronto ON M5G 1E5
Telephone: (416) 212-6349
Toll Free: 1-866-448-2248
Website: olt.gov.on.ca

Tribunal ontarien de l'aménagement du territoire
655 rue Bay, suite 1500
Toronto ON M5G 1E5
Téléphone: (416) 212-6349
Sans Frais: 1-866-448-2248
Site Web: olt.gov.on.ca



The Ontario Land Tribunal ("Tribunal") will conduct a **Hearing by Video Conference** for this matter.

The event will be held:

AT: 10:00 a.m.

ON: July 19, 2021

The Tribunal has set aside 4 days for this matter.

A livestream of the hearing will be available to the public on the Tribunal's YouTube channel:

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCxDacq6BD8wgOUfSV-yGVRA>

If you do not attend the event, the Tribunal may proceed in your absence and you will not be entitled to any further notice of these proceedings.

PARTY OR PARTICIPANT STATUS REQUESTS:

Persons who wish to participate in the hearing, either as a party or as a participant, must file a written status request with the Tribunal to outline their interest in the proceeding. Party and Participant Status Requests Forms (available at: <https://olt.gov.on.ca/appeals-process/forms/>) must be filed in advance of the hearing with the Case Coordinator, Paul De Medeiros: paul.demedeiros@ontario.ca. Status requests will be reviewed and considered by the presiding Member at the hearing. **Attendance by the requestor, or their representative, at the hearing is required for all status requests.** Connection details for the video conference will be provided by the Case Coordinator upon receipt of the status request form.

We are committed to providing accessible services as set out in the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*. If you have any accessibility needs, please contact our Accessibility Coordinator as soon as possible by emailing OLT.COORDINATOR@ontario.ca. If you require documents in formats other than conventional print, or if you have specific accommodation needs, please let us know so we can make arrangements in advance.

Pour recevoir des services en français, veuillez communiquer avec la Tribunal au 1-866-448-2248/(416) 212-6349 ou OLT.COORDINATOR@ontario.ca.

For general information concerning the Tribunal, visit our website at <https://olt.gov.on.ca> or you may contact the Tribunal's offices at 1-866-448-2248 or local (416) 212-6349.

DATED at Toronto, this 21st day of June 2021.

Becky Fong
Registrar



As Canada geese fly over Lake Ontario, golfer Dow Wright has a close encounter with a doe on sixth hole at NOTL Golf Club. KEVIN MACLEAN PHOTO

Self-educating essential for reconciliation, Indigenous lecturer says

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

With only a few of the 139 residential schools in Canada searched for unmarked graves, it is certain that the number of children's remains located will continue to grow.

Shock, grief and anger are the emotions that many people are feeling right now and it is essential to channel those emotions into something useful, says a Brock University lecturer.

Calls to action, cries for accountability, the will to self-educate and compassion for the Indigenous communities are just some of the ways Stanley "Bobby" Henry recommends people engage with the horrendous truth of residential schools in Canada.

During a virtual talk with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum last week, Henry, a member of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, offered six essential steps to guide learning.

An overarching theme of his talk was that language matters.



A sacred fire is burning for seven days at the Niagara Regional Native Centre. EVAN SAUNDERS

"I'm deliberate in my terminology," Henry said in an interview, referring to the children's remains as being uncovered instead of discovered.

"When we say 'discovered,' it makes it seem like it wasn't truth. We've always been telling this truth. Uncovered means that something has been covered up, and that is what's happened."

Henry's six steps are:

Step 1: Recognize that your voice and support matters.

"Amplify the voices who are speaking out. Use your ability to lobby alongside people," Henry said.

This means holding the government and Catholic church accountable and pushing the mandates of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Amplify Indigenous voices using your "dominant privilege."

Henry stressed this comes from a place of goodness and should not contain hostility.

For example, Henry cited the issue of Indigenous languages and encouraged people to ask why Indigenous languages are not declared official languages in Canada.

"If you look at what happened in Nunavut, Inuktitut became the official

language as a means to preserve it," Henry said during the talk.

Step 2: Know that the history of the residential school system is the shared history of Canadian and Indigenous Peoples and places responsibility on the individual to self-educate about these issues.

"Education got us into this mess and education will get us out," Justice Murray Sinclair, the head of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, said of the residential school system in 2015.

Henry recognizes that many Canadians were unaware of the extent of the horrors of residential schools. But that is no excuse to avoid educating yourself on the topic.

Essential readings for adults: "Indian Horse" by Richard Wagamese, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report, the Aboriginal Healing Foundation's reports and the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People.

For youth: "Fatty Leg" by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret-Olemaun Pokiak-

Fenton and "The Orange Shirt Story" by Phyllis Webstad.

Henry also recommends watching the documentary "We Were Children" by the National Film Board on residential schools in Canada.

Step 3: Challenge racist stereotypes and comments about Indigenous people.

"A lot of stereotypes about Indigenous people come from misinformation," Henry said.

He recommends that people ask for evidence when they hear someone uttering a stereotype.

"Where did you hear your information? What facts are you basing your argument on? From my experience, they heard it from someone else or they can't substantiate what they're saying."

Step 4: Ask yourself a few big questions in your life and work.

"Who are we? How did we get here? Where do we want to go? How will we get there? Those questions are big, but they are our guiding questions for moving forward and getting to the essence of

what reconciliation is all about."

Step 5: Offer your support whenever and wherever possible.

"Communities themselves are in mourning. We have to help one another, support one another," Henry said.

He recommends simply saying, "I'm here for you. Let me know if there's anything I can do for you" or "Hearing this truth has made me want to do more research."

Step 6: Individualize reconciliation. This means it is up to the individual to start tackling these issues personally, Henry said.

"Reconciliation is everyone's responsibility. Bring this conversation to your dinner table, talk to 10 people about it. If you're ambitious, talk to 100," Henry said.

"Conversations are key to making meaningful change. These are just six steps to start the journey. It's something that doesn't end. It's a relationship that's going to keep evolving and keep changing and we as a people have to keep working on that."



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Ross' Ramblings: Prettiest town is great, but let's aim for kindest

Ross Robinson
Special to The Lake Report

Please be kind to me as I ramble way out of my depth. But we need to talk.

Hundreds of unmarked graves. Islamophobia. Micro-aggressions. LGBTQ+ conversations. An ongoing deadly global pandemic. Systemic racism. Anti-Semitism. And more ...

So much to discuss. To ponder. To debate. An overwhelming time in our lives. What will Canada be in 10 years? A kinder country?

We have the ability to hear what we want to hear. To see what we want to see. To know what we want to know.

Now, let us determine to learn from the horrible events that have recently piled on us. Every person, every nation has developed in its own way and has made its own mistakes.

Let's work hard, honestly, to learn. We must greatly expand our Indigenous history teachings.

My family has strong ties to the beautiful Qu'Appelle Valley area in Saskatchewan. My dad's mother, Emiline Scott, was born in 1880.



The clock tower cenotaph. FILE PHOTO

Her dad was James Scott, a pioneer businessman who owned the Scott Stagecoach Line. Our family talked about many things and visited Fort Qu'Appelle on our way to the Calgary Stampede in 1963. Roy Rogers and Trigger were the parade marshals.

Many things were not talked about. My Granny was cool and had many friends in many parts of

Canada. She loved to travel and learn.

Granny lived with us in Etobicoke and St. Catharines from 1957 to 1967, and it was wonderful to have her with us.

As I reflect because of recent reveals about Canada's Indian Residential Schools, allow me to state here that I have long thought that calling these institutions schools has been a bastard-

ization of the noun "school." We all think of schools as institutions for education.

My mother was a school teacher outside of Cochrane, way up north, during the Great Depression. A one-room school house, 31 students, from K to Grade 8. Schools were where Canadians taught and learned. (An aside: my mother baby sat Tim Horton for two years in Cochrane in the mid 1930s. How cool is that, Leaf Nation?)

Angelyn Francis wrote in the Toronto Star that the "network of more than 180 federal schools were designed to kill the Indian in the child." We have learned that some 150,000 Indigenous children were taken from their families. Separate schools for European children and Indigenous children.

Many people knew and no one talked. Residential schools operated in Canada from 1828 until 1996. That's about six generations! Many people knew. Sh-h-h.

Today, should we feel horrified? Ashamed? Embarrassed? Mad? Upset? Deceived?

All of the above, but how

can we progress? Let us mourn the deceased and let us educate every Canadian about this horrific genocide. We must resolve to teach the true history of our country.

As I attempt to piece things together, I can only surmise why my Granny always seemed to dislike the Catholic church. My sister and I both married Catholics, and she would have loved them. Her strong feelings about the Catholic church kinda puzzled me as a kid, but there were other things to talk about.

She smoked a pack and a half of hand rolled cigarettes a day, until one day at 78 she quit. Just like that. Cold turkey.

Back now to her life in southeastern Saskatchewan. She was raised in Fort Qu'Appelle, less than 50 miles from the Marieval Indian Residential "School."

This is where some 751 unmarked graves were revealed last week. There were 21 other such "prisons" in Saskatchewan.

What had my grandmother seen as a young person, as stage coaches travelled to and from Marieval? What stories had she heard? We

will never know.

So where are we now? We are making progress, to be certain. Last Sunday, I spent two hours touring and tasting at Jackson-Triggs Winery and Reif Estates Winery. Such an inspiration, to see a group of young Canadians working hard together, having fun at their summer jobs. A variety of ethnicities, all genders.

Let's have the conversations. Let's learn and share Canada's true history.

During a telephone conversation with NOTL chief administrator Marnie Cluckie, we agreed that our pretty town has the opportunity to show the world how to be kinder, to work hard to include all locals and visitors.

Kindness will not be a "budget line." It will be free, from our hearts. By our actions.

Wave to people on our paths, in our parks, on our streets. Or if you are too shy to wave, share a warm smile. Even with a COVID mask on.

But, above all, let's all resolve to make "Canada's prettiest town" also "Canada's kindest town."



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Flying colours: Butterflies and moths in our backyards

Kyra Simone is a NOTL-born nature lover with a master's degree in biology. In her spare time, she advocates for sustainable change, picks up garbage, makes recycled jewelry, and transforms furniture bound for the landfill.



Kyra Simone
Special to The Lake Report



Virginia creeper sphinx moth (top left), Kermes scale moth (bottom left), monarchs on white asters and thistles (centre), painted lady butterfly (top right), green pug moth (bottom right). KYRA SIMONE

Now that summer is here, some of the most beautiful, delicate insects are emerging and adding colour to our gardens. Butterflies and moths are vital components of our natural environments – and some are hiding a mysterious secret!

A Royal Challenge: Monarch butterflies are some of the most well-travelled insects. Though it involves the birth and death of several generations, they actually migrate towards Mexico each winter.

However, populations of these determined butterflies have been declining, because it has become increasingly difficult to migrate with changing weather patterns and extreme temperatures.

Monarchs are also threatened by the decrease in their food supply. The caterpillars only feed on milkweed plants, which are threatened by herbicide use.

Pretty Poison: The gentle coexistence between milk-

weed plants and monarch butterflies seems like such a simple interaction. However, monarchs actually rely on milkweed for protection via a fascinating chemical defence.

When the caterpillars eat milkweed, they ingest steroids called cardenolides that are toxic to many predators. The butterflies become bitter-tasting and poisonous; blue jays even vomit after they eat monarchs!

Viceroy butterflies look very similar to monarchs, but have an extra black line on their hind wings. Viceroys also have an unpleasant taste, so birds have learned to avoid both of these bright orange and black species.

All Aflutter: Though we're more likely to observe butterflies during the day, moth species actually outnumber them nine to one! Most active at dusk and at night, moths are also im-

portant pollinators and food

sources for other animals. Bats often eat adult moths, as do many small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Moth caterpillars are also an important dietary component for baby birds.

Although some species like the gypsy moth threaten tree cover and agricultural products, moths and butterflies are essential little agents in ecosystem interactions.

Often, tidying up our gardens involves remov-

ing “weeds,” but many of these plants are actually ideal food sources for these winged friends!

Moths and butterflies lay eggs on a few specific host plants, where newly hatched caterpillars are near to their favourite foods. But once they change into their adult form, they enjoy sipping a variety of liquids!

This includes nectar from so-called nuisance plants like asters, thistles, nettles, goldenrod, and forget-me-nots. Butterflies also love many herbs, including dill, rosemary, and lavender.

The sheer diversity of these dainty fliers is apparent this time of year, and many tools exist to record new sightings. With the iNaturalist app, Ontario Butterfly Atlas, or eButterfly, you can determine the type of insect based on photographs and even help researchers collect data on rare species!

Whether being a citizen scientist or maintaining a pollinator-friendly garden, keeping butterflies and moths in mind will maintain vibrant, healthy ecosystems.

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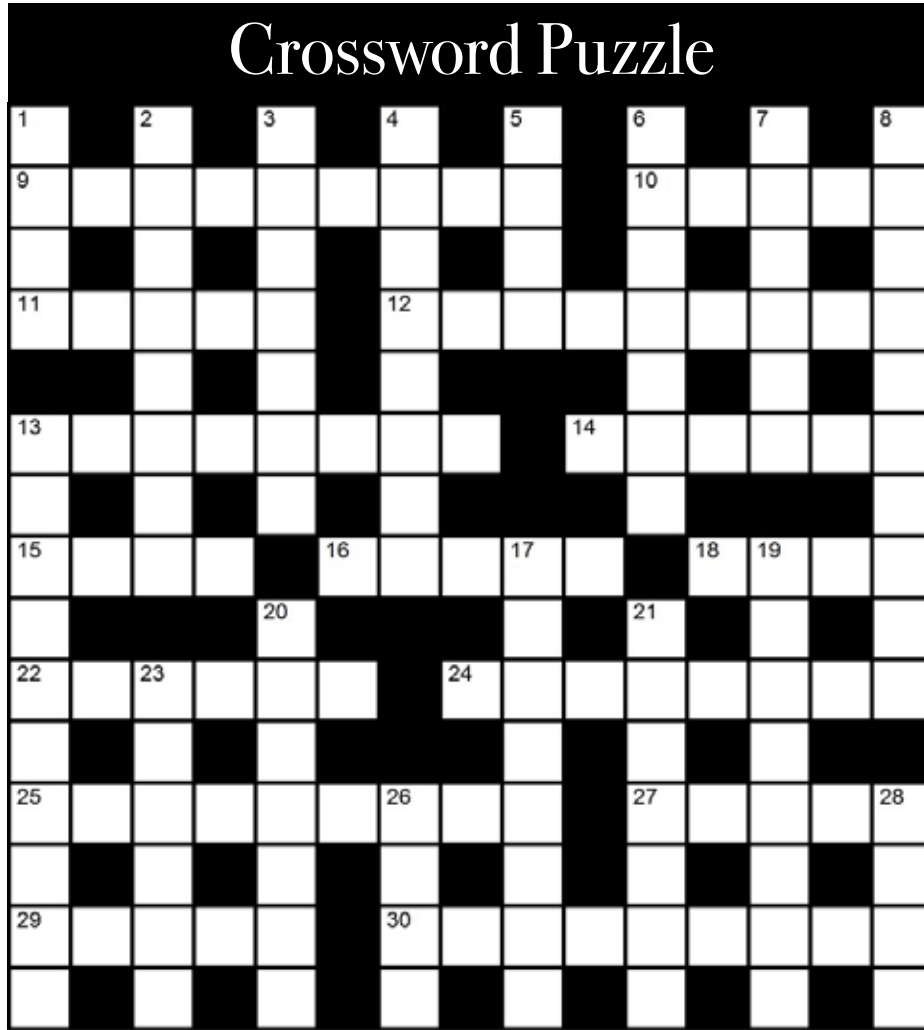
Have some fun

Across

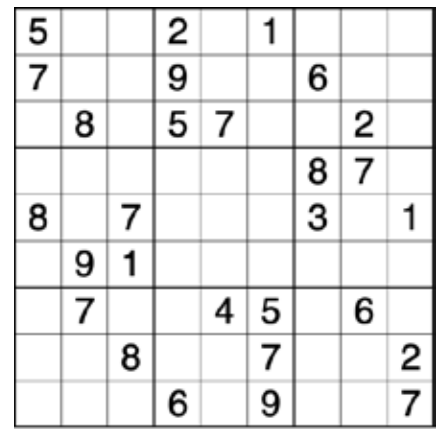
- 9. Deserted settlement (5,4)
- 10. Shout of greeting (5)
- 11. Artist's support (5)
- 12. Square one (9)
- 13. Helps drivers see (8)
- 14. Most secure (6)
- 15. Whirlpool (4)
- 16. More unfavourable (5)
- 18. Grant to the needy (4)
- 22. Arrest (6)
- 24. Railway track supports (8)
- 25. Long-armed anthropoid ape (5-4)
- 27. Anaesthetic (5)
- 29. Boat spines (5)
- 30. Flattery (5,4)

Down

- 1. Look at amorously (4)
- 2. Ate (8)
- 3. Smart (7)
- 4. Broad-brimmed straw hat (8)
- 5. Obstacle (4)
- 6. Gossip (4-3)
- 7. Mountain plant (6)
- 8. Diva (10)
- 13. Rope-like hairstyle (10)
- 17. Prevented from speaking (8)
- 19. Get too hot (8)
- 20. Revulsion (7)
- 21. Arid areas (7)
- 23. Merchant (6)
- 26. Protruding tooth (4)
- 28. Garden tool (4)



Last issue's answers



Millions of people across Ontario have received their COVID-19 vaccine.

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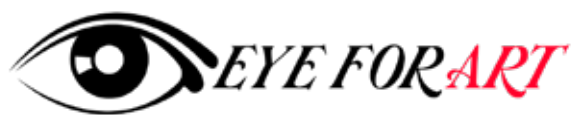
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FEATURED



Emily Carr was a proud tree hugger

Penny-Lynn Cookson
Special to The Lake Report

If Emily Carr, born in 1871 in Victoria, B.C., was alive today, we would call her a “tree hugger.”

And she would agree as she adored, painted and completely related to the magnificent giant Douglas firs, red cedars, spruce and pines of the Pacific Northwest.

Trees centered her. She found spiritual communion in their graceful rhythms, mood and beauty, so evident in “Tossed by the Wind,” sold at auction last week for \$3.39 million.

Carr abhorred the logging on Vancouver Island in the 1920s and 1930s. She saw loggers as executioners. Over 90 years ago, she cared deeply about environmental issues, the protection of forests and resource rights for Indigenous peoples.

She would be appalled that only 2.7 per cent of old growth forest is left in British Columbia and, undoubtedly, she would have joined 100 other prominent Canadians in sending a letter to B.C. Premier John Horgan, demanding that he preserve the province’s remaining old growth forests.

Those signatories included Brian Mulroney, Adrienne Clarkson, Michael Ondaatje, Bryan Adams, Neil Young, Wade Davis and others such as Greta Thunberg, who responded to the call of Nicole Rycroft of Vancouver, founder and CEO of Canopy, an environmental non-profit aiming to change the practices of the forestry industry worldwide.

Carr’s route to fame as one of Canada’s most renowned artists was long and tortuous.

After studies at the California School of



Emily Carr, “Odds and Ends,” 1939, oil on canvas, Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. SUPPLIED

Design in San Francisco, she made many trips to Aboriginal villages of the Pacific Northwest, documenting the art of the Haida, Gitksan and Tsimshian peoples, sketching and painting carved totem poles, driftwood seascapes and forest landscapes.

She studied at London’s Westminster School of Art but disliked its conservatism, felt rejected as a “colonial” and found the soot, grime and smell of the city oppressive.

A trip to Paris and the Louvre in 1901 changed her world. She attended the

Académie Colarossi and was exposed to Post-Impressionism, Fauvism, Expressionism and Cubism.

Transformed by the brilliant landscapes of her teacher, Harry Phelan Gibb, her concern for detail was replaced by bold brushstrokes and colour on the canvas. She became a Modernist. Two of her works were shown at the 1911 Salon d’Automne.

She returned to Vancouver in 1912 determined to capture the land, its forests and Aboriginal themes in her new style. She taught at an art club for ladies, lasting

one month. Her smoking and cursing in class offended students, who boycotted her classes.

She opened an art gallery, but it closed due to lack of interest in her work. She retreated to Victoria, gave up painting for 15 years, ran a boarding house, bred dogs and made pottery.

In 1927, the director of the National Gallery of Canada visited and invited her to participate in a group exhibition that included Group of Seven members. Lauren Harris’s theosophical beliefs of God as nature resonated with her vision

of the wilderness as a sacred space alive with spirit. Further exhibitions enhanced her international reputation.

“Odds and Ends” reveals her profound concern for the ecological impact of industrial logging on the land and its effect on Indigenous people. The splendid lush landscape has been violated, desecrated by deforestation.

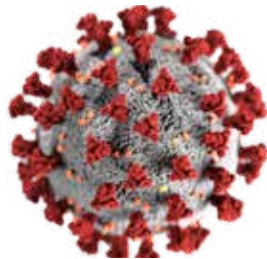
Carr sees the stumps as amputations and feels their pain. The remaining fragile trees bear witness. Beset by three heart attacks and a stroke, Carr turned to writing and in 1941 won the Governor-General’s Award for non-fiction for her memoir “Klee Wyck,” her Indigenous nickname.

She succeeded against all odds and, after her death in 1945, represented Canada at the Venice Biennale in 1952. Of Canada she said, “This is my country. What I want to express is here and I love it. Amen!”

Penny-Lynn Cookson is an art historian who taught at the University of Toronto for 10 years. She also was head of extension services at the Art Gallery of Ontario. Watch for her upcoming lecture series at the Pump-house Arts Centre and at RiverBrink Art Museum.

Dr. Brown: For Long-COVID patients, symptoms **linger** long afterward

Dr. William Brown
The Lake Report



For most healthy, middle-aged and especially younger people, infection with COVID-19 has been a non-event – a positive PCR test with few, if any symptoms to show for the infection.

But for older folk and those with comorbid conditions, infection was often associated with moderate or even severe symptoms that required hospitalization and even ventilator support.

After that many patients were crippled for many months by shortness of breath, fatigue and difficulties concentrating and forgetfulness, or what some patients called “brain fog.”

For those managed in intensive care units, it was tricky sorting out which symptoms were directly attributable to COVID and which to being on a ventilator, powerful drugs (including corticosteroids), immobi-

lization and extended bouts of disorientation.

However, over the next several months another picture emerged.

Some patients who tested positive and experienced minor initial symptoms such as a dry cough and loss of smell or perhaps no symptoms at all, went on to develop a mysterious constellation of debilitating symptoms lasting many months.

Most long-lasting symptoms improve, although for some, the symptoms continued in some fashion. But whatever the severity of the initial symptoms, most refer to the clinical syndrome as “Long COVID.”

The cause of such long-

lasting symptoms isn’t known but because the symptoms are so common (15 to as high as 80 per cent of patients), the National Institutes of Health in the United States committed over a billion dollars, and the U.K., roughly half that amount, toward better understanding and managing lingering post-COVID symptoms.

The similarity to long-lasting symptoms following other viral infections such as the closely related SARS, SARS-CoV-1 and MERS, suggests that persistent viral particles might trigger a smoldering autoimmune response.

Long-COVID symptoms are also similar to those observed in chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), otherwise known as myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME). The chief difference between the two is the high incidence of abnormalities of smell and taste, and strong evidence of involvement of the lungs in

many people suffering from Long-COVID.

The truth is we don’t understand the cause of such protracted symptoms. But in the absence of verifiable evidence, some physicians take the position that what’s unverifiable, doesn’t exist and must be “all in the patient’s head.” Well, they may be right on that one, but not in the way they imagined.

Oxford University and the Imperial College in London recently collaboratively posted online comparative MRI and functional MRI (fMRI) studies of volunteers who a few years earlier were studied as part of the U.K. Biobank program. Some of them later developed COVID and others, who did not, acted as controls.

The authors posited that the SARS-CoV-2 virus gains access to the brain through the olfactory and gustatory systems, which are intimately connected to structures in the temporal lobe and elsewhere

in the brain that play major roles in memory, mood and emotion, as well as smell and taste.

Their findings were striking. Abnormalities were found in many of latter regions of the brain, mostly on the left side, and more widespread in the small subgroup of patients, usually older, who were hospitalized.

For me the most important observation was the clear finding of abnormalities in the brains of COVID patients, most of whom were not hospitalized (only 15 of a total of 379 subjects). It was a marvellous study because it strongly suggests the virus reaches the brain through the olfactory system, as suspected.

Unfortunately, the study made no mention of which subjects developed symptoms and if so, what symptoms? But given the localization of the findings, it wouldn’t be too much of a stretch to suggest that some of the Long-

COVID cognitive symptoms might be related, in part at least, to what was observed in this study – and not the imaginations of the patients.

The hypothesis that lesions in the brain might be far more common than we thought and possibly related to Long-COVID symptoms is well worth further study but would need a bevy of psychological and other tests to complement the imaging studies. And that would only be the beginning.

Still, the study was a very good start. But given the prevalence and duration of Long-COVID symptoms, the challenges of COVID will be with us for a very long time – long after the last surge is a memory.

That’s something we’re just beginning to realize.

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



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EXPLORING PHOTOS

WITH NOTL MUSEUM



Canning at the Harrison's

With the start of the fruit season, many of you might be getting to work on your homemade jams and canning all the fruits of the season. Here is the Harrison family working hard in the 1920s on what looks to be peaches in their baskets. The Harrisons were a prominent family here in NOTL. William H. Harrison was the mayor for eight years and the family ran the hardware store on Queen Street for many years. Families today still have canning parties to help ease the workload so everyone can enjoy the fruits of their labour. Happy peeling and canning to all our fruit fans this summer!



Parliament Oak questions

Brian Marshall
Columnist



An illustration of the proposed development for the former Parliament Oak school property. SUPPLIED

This afternoon I parked beside the old Parliament Oak school property and walked the block imagining the development as proposed by the owners, Liberty Sites Ltd., when completed. What would be the impact on the streetscapes of King, Centre, Regent and Gage?

I came away dismayed. The proposed apartment building (be it rental or condo) would be the largest single structure massing east of King Street in Old Town. Its height, including the mechanical equipment, which would almost certainly be roof-mounted, would exceed that of the Old Court House, while its footprint would be close to an entire block long and half a block deep.

This building would dominate each of the adjacent streetscapes, having a particularly significant impact on King. It would be, in fact, the building a resident or visitor's memory would recall when thinking about King Street.

That being the case, let's consider the published artist's illustration of the proposed design.

First and foremost, allow me to state that incorporating the centre portion of the old school (which is the only part of the existing structure I would deem to have architectural and historical interest) is a positive.

That said, the "conceptual" illustration depicts a facade which is, at best, two and half storeys above grade. Not three and certainly not the four storeys, encompassing roof mounted mechanicals, which will be seen from the rear (and likely based on my approximate line-of-sight estimates from King Street).

Then, considering this monumental facade, we have what appears to be a very pedestrian and, dare I say, commercial presentation which must draw into question the developer's stated vision of "fit(ing) into the neighbourhood." This is attenuated by the fact that the shouldering

King Street residences are, respectively, a Victorian Gothic to the right and a classic Regency (featured in Peter Stokes' book "Old Niagara on the Lake") to the left.

I wonder if, despite the fact the mid-20th century design of the Parliament Oak school does not necessarily respect its neighbours, should we be complicit in repeating the mistakes of the past?

So, to be clear, I do not oppose the concept of an apartment building on this property. However, the design of this building must be fully integrated into the cultural heritage landscape and not exceed a maximum of three storeys (including roof mounted mechanicals). In my mind this leads me to a New Traditional design based on Georgian, Regency or Gothic Revival parameters.

Further, while I understand and applaud the logic of incorporating semi-detached homes in a traditional design under this proposal, I have to ask why the developer has included a Plantation house a thousand miles north of its historical home?

Looking to the Stars

A time for healing



Bill Auchterlonie
Special to The Lake Report

This is the week of the third quarter moon in Aries on July 1, and Venus and Mars bringing sweet stuff on July 7.

Thursday, July 1: One hundred and fifty-four years ago the world got a new country – Canada! Happy birthday, Canada. This time it is on the day of the third quarter moon in Aries. Such moons are always a bit of a challenge, especially when the sun and moon are in cardinal signs. Like today with the sun in Cancer and the moon in Aries. It's a bit of a walking contradiction though, as the moon is in the same place in the sky as the wounded healer planetoid, Chiron. Impulsive healing anyone? Canada could use some healing right now. Impulsive or not. On July 1, 1867, Canada was four provinces – Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Quebec.

Friday, July 2: Call today fiery Friday. The moon is still in Aries. Mars in Leo is in perfect harmony with Chiron in Aries. Look for another day of tons of energy – and healing. And loving. And giving. It was July 2, 1928, that the Jenkins Television Corporation first broadcast television from Washington, D.C. Yes, TV is 93 today.

Saturday, July 3: What follows fiery Friday? Surprising Saturday, as Mars is square to Uranus tonight. Be wary of overexerting yourself today. On July 3, 1863, the Union forces defeated the Confederates in the Battle of Gettysburg.

Sunday, July 4: Happy birthday #245 to the USA. After the past year and a bit, today there is a practical, get 'er done feeling to just about everything. The Declaration

of Independence, signed July 4, 1776, begins: "When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for the people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them to another, and to assume ..."

Monday, July 5: Big news and good news is possible, likely even as the sun triggers a friendly bump from Uranus. It's good when a surprise is from a friendly neighbour looking to better your future. On July 5, 1994, in Bellevue, Wash., entrepreneur Jeff Bezos founded an online bookstore he called Amazon.com.

Tuesday, July 6: With Venus in Leo opposite Saturn in Aquarius, everything will feel like it's just not possible. Likely it is possible but requires more honesty and less fear to get it accomplished. On July 6, 1957, a 15-year-old named Paul McCartney met 16-year-old John Lennon when Lennon's band, the Quarrymen, performed at a church dinner in Liverpool.

Wednesday, July 7: Venus and Mars are alright today. Mars gets things off to a super generous and loving start to this hump day. Later Venus picks up on the loving theme in an equally generous fashion. On July 7, 1969, in Burnaby, B.C., Joe Sakic was born. He had a 20-year Hall of Fame career in the NHL with the Quebec Nordiques and later the Colorado Avalanche, with whom he won two Stanley Cups.

Next time we get a new moon in Cancer on July 9 and a wonderful Venus/Mars connection on July 13.

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

Astrology is a form of entertainment, not a science.



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Town inches toward rainbow crosswalk

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors are slowly taking the next steps toward adding a rainbow crosswalk and benches in town.

Council has decided to wait on approval from its municipal heritage and audit and finance committees, as well as a report from town staff on where the proposed features can be implemented before installation begins.

Coun. John Wiens, who serves on the Inclusivity committee, has been championing the installation hoping to get it done as soon as possible.

"It's pretty self-explanatory. I was just hoping that we could expedite it a little quicker than the 2022 budget," Wiens told his fellow



A rainbow crosswalk at Niagara College. SUPPLIED

councillors at their June 21 council meeting.

And though councillors voted to pass the project along to committees for consideration, chief administrative officer Marnie Cluckie said the town could speed up the project if needed.

"I can tell you that if we were directed to move forward and those two items

were addressed then we could move very rapidly on it," Cluckie said.

The two items she is referring to are both of a bureaucratic nature.

"The time constraint on this one is the consultation piece with the municipal heritage committee," she said.

The other constraint on the project is the pending

approval of the audit and finance committee.

A rainbow crosswalk installation would cost \$10,000 to \$15,000, according to Cluckie. No exact pricing has been determined for the benches.

Craig Lamour, the town's director of community and development services, said the 2021 operating budget already allocates two new benches and he was hoping to upgrade the new benches to rainbow benches for installation. That won't be determined until after the audit and finance committee has had their say.

"We're very cautious about spending and I think that's one of the big reasons it's forwarded to the audit and finance committee," Cluckie said, but offered an alternative to councillors.

"If council wanted us to look for funding, we could do so," Cluckie said.



Parliament Oak development plan open house on July 6

Staff
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is holding an open house for public input on the proposed development on the old Parliament Oak school property, 325 King Street.

Residents who wish to voice their opinion on the project need to email mark.iamarino@notl.com to register for the open house

before noon on July 6. Alternatively, you can call Mark at 905-468-6423.

The development by Liberty Sites (3) Ltd. proposes to build a 3-storey, 80-unit apartment building on the property using the original school as its entrance. 12 semi-detached homes will also be built.

The open house is scheduled for 5 p.m. and will be held virtually.

Divide and conquer to multiply your perennials

The sixth in a 10-week gardening column series, organized by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Communities in Bloom committee.



Joanne Young
Special to The Lake Report



Divide perennials on overcast day, expert advises. SUPPLIED

Here's one for the math lovers. Gardening is the only activity where you can multiply by dividing. Let me explain.

Dividing perennials is necessary to keep your garden healthy, thriving and under control.

It rejuvenates older plants. As some perennials age, you may see clumps dying in the centre with new growth only appearing on outer edges. Or the plant may not bloom as heavily and its leaves appear stunted. This means the plant is losing vigour and needs to be dug up and divided in order to thrive again.

It controls plant size.

Some perennials grow more aggressively. Plants like black-eyed susans and shasta daisies can grow into a bigger clump and take over your garden. Dividing the clump into smaller sizes can keep size under control.

It propagates more plants. Dividing perennials is an inexpensive way to increase the number of plants in your garden. It's also a great way to share plants with others.

Some perennials don't like to be divided: baptisia, bleeding heart, butterfly weed, Christmas rose, lavender, poppies and peonies, for example.

Divide spring and summer flowering perennials in

late summer or fall, and late summer and fall blooming perennials in early spring.

How to divide perennials:

Divide perennials on an overcast day with showers in the forecast. This helps the plant recover from root damage. Thoroughly water plants a day prior to dividing.

In the spring, wait until new shoots are about one inch tall. In the fall, prune plants back to just a few inches tall.

Using a spade or garden fork, dig about four to six inches beyond where the shoots emerge. Dig around the clump then pry up on the root ball. Don't cut through the roots while the

plant is still in the ground or you won't know how much root you'll get and could waste parts of the plant.

Lift out the entire clump and sit it on the ground or a tarp.

Using a sharp spade or knife, gently cut through the roots, dividing the clump into as many pieces as desired. Each division should have at least three to five vigorous shoots and a healthy root supply. If the centre has died out, divide the living, outer portions into smaller clumps and throw out the dead centre portion.

Enrich the soil in new planting areas with compost, composted manure or triple mix before planting new divisions. Fertilize new plantings by scattering a handful of bone meal in the bottom of the planting hole. Bone meal is high in phosphorus, which helps stimulate root growth.

Fill in around the plant roots with triple mix or compost. Make sure the plant is in the soil at the same depth it was previously and water well.

Joanne Young is a garden coach and designer.

Obituary

Lynn Louise Bradley



Lynn Bradley -

It is with heavy hearts and sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our daughter and sister at the age of 62 at Upper Canada Lodge on Friday, June 25th, 2021.

Lynn is predeceased by her husband Carmen Topping, her father Allen Bradley, and brother Bruce. Survived by her mother Hope Bradley, siblings Rob-

ert (Shelagh), Jim (Kathy), Mary (Alvin), Allison (Henry), Paul, and sister-in-law Mary MacDougall.

Also survived by nieces and nephews Zoë, Leah and Stephan, Bradley and Courtney, Erica and Cameron, Michael and Tyler, and Abby and Allenah.

Lynn worked for the Niagara Health System for 37 years and volunteered at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Hospital after her retirement. Lynn was a life long member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and an avid traveller. A private service will be held Friday, July 2nd at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Interment to follow in the Church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church would be gratefully acknowledged as expressions of sympathy. Arrangements entrusted to George Darte Funeral Home, 585 Carlton St., St. Catharines. Sign our online guestbook at www.georgedartefuneralhome.com



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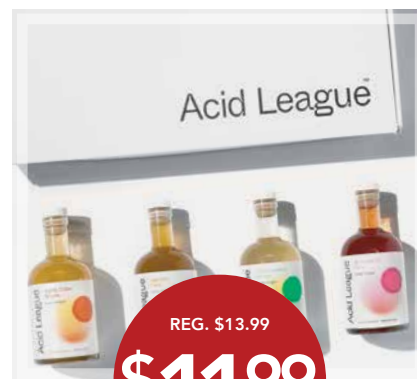
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