

# The Lake Report

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Hyper-local news for Niagara-on-the-Lake



Vol. 2, Issue 26

Niagara-on-the-Lake's first independent newspaper

July 4, 2019



An open exposure shot of the fireworks display at Ravine Winery on Canada Day. SUBMITTED PHOTO/FRANK HAYES

## Fireworks dazzle in St. Davids

Story on Page 10



A group of horse carriage protesters projected their messaging onto the cenotaph last week, causing an outrage on social media. SOURCED PHOTO/FACEBOOK

## Protesters in hot water over projections

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Animal rights supporters who have been targeting a horse-drawn carriage company in Niagara-on-the-Lake took their protests to a new level on the weekend and found themselves in more hot water with NOTL residents and police.

On Saturday, the group, which calls itself At War For Animals Niagara,

projected a video containing anti-carriage messaging on the clock tower cenotaph on Queen Street in NOTL's heritage and tourism district. Two days later, the group broadcast their message onto Grape Escape, a private business on Niagara Stone Road.

The protesters claim Sentineal Carriages, a family-run NOTL operation, is "exploiting" horses.

The group used a projec-

tor for about 45 minutes Saturday before being told to leave by Niagara Regional Police. However, members of a local carriage support group say the police should have enforced a federal law that states defacing national historic monuments is illegal.

According to the group Locals for Carriages, police only forced the protesters

*Continued on Page 3*



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# Nasty surprise: A \$40 ticket for parking in front of own home

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

Receiving a ticket for parking on the street at night came as a shock to Carrie DeBon as she says she had no idea there was a bylaw prohibiting overnight parking in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Last week, DeBon's daughter Samantha parked her car in front of their house on Andres Street in Virgil.

When Carrie was leaving for work the next morning, she noticed something on the windshield of the car and called her husband to check what it was. It was a parking ticket.

The \$40 ticket was issued at 4:54 a.m.

What bothered DeBon most was that she didn't know such a bylaw existed.

"I've never seen it posted anywhere ... For most subdivision streets, I don't see any signs posted," she said, noting she was also surprised at how much the fine was.

Gary Dick, who lives on the corner of Mary Street and Gage Street, also received a \$40 ticket, issued at 5:54 a.m. for parking in front of his house last Tuesday. He said he was "a little upset" as there is nothing he can do about it and he "got no recourse."

"I know it's a bylaw but they never told us it was going to happen and it seems like a money-grab to me,"



Carrie DeBon holds a parking ticket her daughter received for parking overnight in front of their house on Andres Street in Virgil. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

he said in a phone interview. "They won't tell you who (filed a complaint) so it's kind of frustrating."

In Niagara Falls, the minimum fine for violating the parking and traffic bylaw is \$25 while in St. Catharines parking on regional roads between 2 and 6 a.m. can result in a \$30 ticket.

The parking bylaw in NOTL prohibits parking between 2 and 6 a.m. within the municipality. Both bylaw officers and parking enforcement officers are authorized to issue parking tickets, said Victoria Steele, the town's engagement coordinator.

"Tickets for parking overnight are issued when cars are interfering with snow clearing operations and throughout the year on a complaint basis," said Steele in an email to The

Lake Report.

DeBon said she doesn't know if her neighbours complained to the town. If neighbours do have issues with people parking overnight, she said she hopes they would talk about it first, before complaining to the town.

She added the bylaw should also be enforced on a regular basis regardless of any complaints as it may cause problems between neighbours.

"If you're going to ticket, make it consistent and not just this random ticket blitz or whatever this is," DeBon said. "You've got to make it known and be consistent with the rules."

She questioned the purpose of the bylaw restricting parking between 2 and 6 a.m. as there is little traffic at that time.

The parking bylaw might also make more sense in the areas with heavier traffic and a higher number of tourists, she said, adding she understands the need for a no-parking bylaw in winter when roads need to be plowed.

"But on a quiet subdivision street like this, I don't understand the purpose of it," DeBon told The Lake Report. "It's not heavy traffic so it's not a huge risk to other people, to cyclists. I don't see it, it's just not a busy area."

Making people aware of the bylaw prompted DeBon to write a post on Facebook last week which gained a lot of online traction, attracting up to 200 comments, many of them angry about the town's random enforcement of the bylaw.



At War for Animals Niagara supporters drove up and down Queen Street Saturday. BRITTANY CARTER

## Old Town needs cameras to monitor horse protesters, Disero says

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Lord Mayor Betty Disero wants the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake to install surveillance cameras at the corner of Queen and King streets.

If approved by council, the cameras would help police keep an eye on local horse carriage protests, Disero told The Lake Report in an interview. The protests have been ongoing for a year and a half.

The protesters, a group of "anti-speciesists" who go by the name At War For Animals Niagara, want to end the use of horse-drawn carriages in town.

In response, carriage supporters from the area have formed a group called Locals For Carriages, which has been supporting NOTL company Sentineal Carriages and is trying to persuade town council to take action.

The protesters usually stand on the sidewalk in front near the Prince of Wales Hotel, a few metres from where the carriages congregate. They also have driven through town in vehicles with signs on them promoting their message and used a projector to display both still pictures and video messages.

The cameras would be monitored by Niagara Regional Police and come at a

cost of \$10,000, Disero said.

"We've been meeting with the Sentineals and the police to try to come up with some solutions that might make it easier for the Sentineals to operate, and continue to operate in our town, which they are most welcome to do, and getting the police to realize that this cannot continue the way it is."

"We talked with the police and I believe (town) staff are writing a report to council, an information report, that we're going to be putting cameras at the corner. It will all be after-the-fact kind of stuff, but it will help them in a number of ways to determine what is going on."

"There was also an incident (unrelated) that happened at one of the stores along King Street and it would have been helpful for the police if they would have had cameras here as well. So it's not just for the protesters and the horse and carriage. It's just because it's so populated here, and so busy, it's a good thing to have."

"That program includes them monitoring ... there will be more eyes, not more bodies," Disero said.

She said police are introducing the CCTV program across the region, at the expense of municipalities.

## TIDBITS

### Step Challenge weekly winners

The Niagara-on-the-Lake June Step Challenge came to an end this week. Throughout the month, 149 participants stepped up to walk the distance across Canada while encouraging each other to push further. The top three teams at the end of the challenge were The Nottage at number one, with an average of 23,538 steps, Evolve Wellness Studio in second with 23,151 and MB Family NOTL Giro in third with 22,353 average steps.

The Lake Report's Brittany Carter, going by "The Lake Reporter" finished in seventh place with 13,291 average steps for the month.

### St. Davids pool leak fixed

The St. Davids pool, located at St. Davids Lions Park, was closed last Saturday in order to repair the leak. As the town staff was preparing the pool for the season, they noticed the liner of the pool was leaking, said Victoria Steele, the town's community engagement co-ordinator.

"The pool water needed to be lowered in order to complete the work. Filling the pool was delayed to fix the leak and, therefore, adding chemicals to the water was delayed," Steele said in an email to The Lake Report. "As all pool chemicals work, they need time to dissipate in the water before it's safe to swim, which is why the pool was closed on Saturday."

The pool was re-opened the following Sunday morning.



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A group of horse carriage protesters projected their messaging onto Grape Escape Monday night. The property is private, and police were notified. SOURCED PHOTO/FACEBOOK

# Horse protesters anger residents after showing **video on cenotaph**

*Continued from Front Page*

to leave when a resident arrived with a copy of the federal statute in hand.

The man, only identified as Rick, drew praise on social media for his efforts.

“Yay for Rick, I’m pleased someone cared enough to put the effort in. Thank you Rick,” wrote one Facebook user in response to a post about the incident.

Locals For Carriages was formed in response to the protests, which have been ongoing for nearly two years. Even after a long struggle to deal with the protests, Jennifer Jones-Butski, co-founder of the organization, said she is “still in disbelief” that the protesters exploited an iconic war monument to broadcast their message.

She live-streamed the incident on social media after finding out about the demonstration from a carriage driver. She had been on the corner counter-protesting.

“So, we went running. I started videotaping, but then realizing it was something the townspeople should be seeing first-hand, started live-streaming,” said Jones-Butski.

What followed was a “giant mishmash of disrespectful actions” by the protesters, she said.

“(There were) threats being thrown at Eric (VanNoort), and camera angles that made it look like Fred Sentinel was assaulting them, when really he was just trying to stop the projection.”

“I may be somewhat sheltered in this regard, but I had never in my life seen anyone disrespect the veterans of this country in such a manner, until last night. I’m still in disbelief,” said Jones-Butski.

She said carriage supporters have had ongoing issues with police not enforcing laws such as the town’s sign bylaw, and took to her group’s Facebook page to remind followers the group is working on its own legal solutions.

“I feel it’s time to remind everyone that although the (police) are not enforcing things as they should be. We are working on things behind the scenes,” Butski said in a group message.

The group is working with the town and police to try to have surveillance cameras installed at the corner, and has organized a petition to council asking for a permit system to control protests.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said “it is not acceptable for protesters of any kind to be on the cenotaph, for a number of reasons. One, it’s

a war memorial, remembering our fallen soldiers, and we need to be respectful of that, and second of all, it’s in the middle of the street, and it’s not safe. And I’ve received confirmation today from Niagara Region Police that (the protesters) have been warned, and agreed, not to be on the cenotaph in the future.”

With regards to police not knowing the town’s bylaws, that she thinks there are “a number of things going on.”

“I was surprised and disappointed that when the police were called originally they were reluctant to do anything, but happy that once they learned the town bylaw, they put a stop to it.”

She said she thinks there was some confusion.

“There’s the protocol that was set up, there’s the criminal code, there’s the town bylaws ... I’m willing to give them the benefit of the doubt that they didn’t know about all three things, and now that they know, they’re taking action, which gives me some hope that they’ll be more helpful.”

Lincoln Westman, a carriage supporter, praised the officer who first arrived on scene.

“I have to say the officer that first arrived did do a good job of de-escalating ...

he calmed every one down. He did not agree with them shining onto the cenotaph but he did not know the bylaws or any other law to get them to stop.”

Meanwhile, one of the owners of Grape Escape, said the business is not happy about the protest group coming onto private property to use the building.

“We’re deeply upset and frustrated that they’ve trespassed on private property to spread their message — a message which the owners of Grape Escape disagree with. We’re concerned that this could happen to other local businesses.”

Though they did not want to be named in this story, the business owners said they have submitted footage from their cameras to police, who said at this point they cannot prosecute because people are not clearly identifiable in the video.

The footage shows a car pulling in at about 10:25 p.m. and staying for about 10 minutes.

“This is right during the time the fireworks displays finished, so a time when traffic would have been quite busy,” they said.

“It’s scary the lengths they’re going to to convey their message,” they added.



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## Editorial

### Horse protesters have gone too far

Kevin MacLean  
Managing Editor

It's oddly fitting, perhaps sadly ironic, that on the weekend when Canadians celebrated all things Canadian, including the glorious freedoms we all enjoy, that a handful of protesters were out on the streets of NOTL again, exercising one of their democratic rights.

Free speech, freedom of peaceful assembly et al.

Except this time, the people who call their group At War For Animals Niagara, went too far. One of the goals of any protest is to get noticed and to spread their message. In this case, these oddly self-righteous individuals are protesting what they call speciesism, the ideal that animals are no different than people and using animals to

pull carriages through town is wrong.

They are entitled to that offbeat, misguided opinion and, goodness knows, they have not hesitated to drive it home for almost two years now.

But Saturday night, they crossed a line. They used our downtown war memorial, the cenotaph located at the clock tower, as a screen to project their propaganda.

Well, they got noticed. Thanks to social media, the world can see what they did.

The fact they would stoop so low as to think it's permissible to desecrate a war memorial is a clear indication of how misguided these lost souls are.

Thankfully, they didn't damage or deface the cenotaph, so the 2014 federal law protecting war memorials from such actions doesn't apply. It was an unconscionable,

stupid act but was not criminal, as the Niagara Regional Police acknowledged in a statement to The Lake Report.

The protesters only dispersed after officers on the scene were advised that the protesters were contravening a Town of NOTL bylaw, the police admitted.

Democracy can be messy, but it remains the best system we have. And one of the things it allows is these foolish ne'er-do-wells to make fools of themselves while they clog up our tourist district and disparage Sentineal Carriages, a popular local business supplying a service that people want.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero and the support group Locals For Carriages may have come up with a good interim solution: installing surveillance cameras to keep an eye on things. While admittedly that could be seen

as intrusive by some, it does give authorities another tool to use should further problems occur.

But it's not a solution. We're not sure if there is a solution, however, the idea of instituting a permit system for parades and protests, as some have suggested, might be worth exploring.

We can't ban such nuisance protests, nor can we wish them away. And we certainly don't want anyone to take the law into their own hands, as some on social media have hinted.

Perhaps, eventually, the half-dozen members of this ragtag group will find another cause to celebrate and ride off into the sunset, so to speak.

*editor@niagaranow.com*

## The Lake Report

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## Correction

A story in the Lake Report on June 27 about Fort George's commemoration of the Great War mistakenly said Ashley Creed worked with her late grandfather Len Rolls to restore a First World War military ambulance. In fact, while Mr. Rolls no longer tours with the restored ambulance, he is still alive and well.

The Lake Report regrets the error.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Don't fear new ideas, like corporate branding

Dear editor:

Re: Glenn Young's letter, "NOTL could reap millions by working with corporate brands," The Lake Report, June 6.

How interesting to notice in the Globe and Mail last week, a full-colour picture of an extremely generous couple donating \$5 million to the Stratford Festival.

But much more interesting was the accompanying text explaining that there would be a dedicated space in the theatre centre – renamed in their honour.

Thankfully, there are those of us who can listen confidently to people with positive ideas and understand that not everything needs to be viewed using the "slippery slope" theory. Corporations and individuals can, and are, generous

contributors to society. They do not always have nefarious, ulterior motives.

In a day and age where town council was trying to balance a budget by discussing how much the annual increase to parking fees to tourists should be, perhaps we need to think outside that proverbial box and be more open to examining new ideas in our community.

Having lived in Whistler during the 1990s, I watched as a small, Canadian, ski resort town evolved from competing locally with Banff and Tremblant, into an international world-class ski resort, on par with the likes of Vail, Aspen, Val d'Isere and countless other world-renowned European resorts.

This change was accom-

plished with the unique combination of all the big players working together: Whistler Blackcomb Mountain, the Town of Whistler and the Chamber of Commerce/Tourism Whistler.

This group opened themselves to the world and marketed their brand, understanding fully the uniqueness of their product, never underestimating the required control. They used strong control, never wavering from their plan, resisting the compromising deal makers.

On a more personal note, as an original volunteer on the Whistler Cup in 1993 (still going now after 27 years), our ski club began an annual event that brought many future Olympians, who were 12 to 15 years

old at the time, to their first international event.

Without branding and sponsorships, with event budgets today in excess of \$1 million, this event would have no chance of surviving.

The town extends open arms to this and many other branded events, understanding that to remain current in world events this is the only way to succeed.

Corporate sponsors have marketing budgets to spend. These companies want to support worthy causes, be they sports, the arts or individual communities. This money will find a home.

Why not here? NOTL needs to participate.

With control and without fear.

*John Jacques  
NOTL*

### Positive Power +

By Patty Garriock

To cut with a sharp knife a bright green watermelon on a big scarlet plate of a summer afternoon. Ah, is this not happiness? – Writer Lin Yutang.



### Go Green Tip of the Week

**Courtesy Norm Arsenaault:** Use reusable water bottles instead of buying plastic ones. Scientists believe that 8.8 million tons of plastic end up in the oceans each and every year. (National Geographic)



# OPINION

## Mennonite church has **changed** and gays are welcome

Dear editor:

This is in response to the June 27 letter, "Mennonite church discriminates against gays and lesbians," by John Boydell of St. Davids, who was commenting on the article, "The Mennonites' long road to Virgil," published on June 13.

I think John is tremendously disillusioned. There is no requirement to specify the inclusion or "mention of homosexuality" or gay/lesbian into the Mennonite church. It is an understood

acceptableness.

Having said that, I have been a member of Niagara United Mennonite Church since 1983. I became a Sunday school teacher and youth adviser shortly thereafter.

In the early 1990s I was given grief by the ministers at the time at my Mennonite church. I was more or less blackmailed into giving up my positions because, you know, I was such a danger to the children and youth.

I was told, "Give up your

positions or we'll bring it up in the church meeting" (this I didn't want because I didn't want to hurt my parents). Can you imagine? On a side note, those kids and young adults adored me – and so did their parents. Needless to say, I gave up my 10-year teaching position and youth advisory.

Several years later I discovered that the Mennonite Conference discussed and accepted and included gays and lesbians into the Menno community. My parents told me that. Yay for us.

After that, a new reverend (awesome guy) became our minister. His brother, who I used to hang out with in Toronto, is gay.

Since the Mennonite Conference, I've had no problem in my Mennonite church

and have always been welcomed with open arms. I have brought my partner to many church functions, including Christmas and other holiday services, and weddings. The pastor was always very positive and always asked where my significant other was if I arrived alone.

Again, John Boydell, you have no idea what you are talking about unless you've actually set foot in our church. Yes, I had hardships, but they are long gone.

Abhor all you want, John Boydell, maybe you should research a little more about the Mennonite community in your area instead of relying on Wikipedia.

Regards,

*Elly Teichgraf  
Bancroft, Ont.*

## Letter was **hate speech** toward Mennonites

Dear editor:

After reading John Boydell's letter of June 27, 2019, I looked up the word abhor in several dictionaries.

One of them defined abhor as synonymous to hate. That would suggest you direct hate toward an identifiable group known as Mennonites.

In Canada, a country you should be thankful to live in, what you produced is known as "hate speech" and it is a crime here.

For someone like yourself, who has fought against discrimination and intolerance all your life, I'm surprised you can dish it out so freely.

Your attitude demonstrates that you do not deserve the respect you are seeking.

But God loves ya!

*Ben Bartel  
NOTL*

**Editor's note:** *The Lake Report is pleased to publish a wide variety of opinions on its letters and opinion pages. Not everyone will agree with other readers' opinions, but the letters pages are a forum for people in our community to have their say about issues that concern them.*

*We do not believe the letter by John Boydell was hate speech, but rather a strong opinion about his lived experience, specific religious practices he is against and the organizations responsible for those practices.*

*While some readers have expressed their strong disagreement with Boydell's letter, and with his objections to some of the Mennonite and Catholic churches' ideas related to gays and lesbians, many of those same readers said both religious organizations are now far more accepting of homosexuality.*

*Not everyone feels that way.*

*The Lake Report received a number of virulent letters that were not suitable for publication because of the language used. We also received a phone call from a woman who identified herself as a Mennonite resident of NOTL who spoke in extremely foul ways about gays and lesbians. Plainly, some people have evolved and are more accepting of others, while others have not.*



**We welcome your letters**

The Lake Report welcomes your letters to the editor. Please, write early and often.

Letters ideally should be under 400 words long. Occasionally, longer letters may be published. All letters may be edited for conciseness, accuracy, libel and defamation.

Please include your full name, street address and a

daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated.

Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published.

Send your letters to editor@niagaranow.com or drop them by our office at 724 Mississauga St., NOTL.

*The Lake Report*

## Ruth Aspinall no longer owns The Epicurean

Dear editor:

Thank you for the wonderful article covering the opening of ArtSpace106, ("ArtSpace 106 gallery opens on Queen St., The Lake Report, June 20).

However, there is one

important correction. I am no longer the owner of The Epicurean.

After 25 wonderful years, it was sold three years ago. Keep up the good work.

*Ruth Aspinall  
NOTL*



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## MORE LETTERS

### Kind NOTLer found lost licence and tracked me down

Dear Editor:

My wife and I were enjoying Canada Day morning strolling around downtown stopping for breakfast, a coffee and then on to Simcoe Park and the Art by the Lake exhibition, marvelling at what a beautiful part of the world we call home.

In the course of our travels somehow I managed to lose my driver's licence. We retraced our steps, stopping to inquire if the licence had been turned in. No luck. Disappointing on such an otherwise beautiful day.

I started think about what I needed to do to apply for a replacement and was mentally making plans for Tuesday to spend some quality time with the good folk at Service Ontario.

Later that afternoon I answered a knock at the door to find a kind and thoughtful fellow NOTLer standing there holding my licence explaining she had found it downtown and, recognizing the address, had decided to return it in person.

What a delightful random act of kindness.

I expressed my profound gratitude for going out of her way on Canada Day when I'm sure she had lots of things to do and people to see. I promised to pay it forward and will do so.

I did not get her name but I bet she reads this paper and will see this letter and I hope it brings a smile to her face. A small thing, she may think, but a small thing I will not soon forget, Thanks again.

*Douglas Stark  
NOTL*



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Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published.

Send your letters to editor@niagaranow.com or drop them by our office at 724 Mississauga St., NOTL.

*The Lake Report*

## TIDBITS

### Shoreline protection ends Friday

The second phase of the shoreline protection along the NOTL Golf Club will be completed by this Friday.

Parks Canada, which has been working on restoring the shoreline since last year, has hydro seeded the entire bank with a special seed mixture which will grow and take hold of the bank preventing the future erosion, said John Wiens, the golf club's owner.

Once The Landscape Architect plans are completed, the shrubs, hedging and trees will be planted this fall, he said.

As the area is still an active construction site, visitors are asked to stay off the bank.

### Old Town post office now open Saturdays



Queen Street Canada Post. BRITTANY CARTER

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

The Canada Post office in Niagara-on-the-Lake is now operating on Saturdays.

In addition to the usual Monday to Friday hours, the Queen Street location is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

Back in 2017, when NOTL resident Julia Buxton-Cox created a website and a petition to deal with the problem of returned mail without a post office box number on it, one of the issues that came up with residents was the lack of Saturday hours at the Queen Street location.

Buxton-Cox said she kept sending requests to Canada Post's head office throughout 2018. In February of this year, she decided to try a different route and sent an online request to customer service at Canada Post saying there was a need for Saturday hours as some residents couldn't access their mailboxes on the weekend.

"And the fact that it was a residential service that was offered in St. Davids and Virgil on Saturdays anyway, it just didn't make sense to us," she told The Lake Report. "There are 2,000 post boxes in downtown, why weren't the residents here already serviced?"

She said she was really surprised to see the office is now open on Saturdays.

"It was a little win for us. Just made me happy that sometimes the little guy wins," she said in a phone interview.

The decision to open longer was based on the "changing and growing needs of customers," said Nicole Lecompte, a media relations spokesperson

for Canada Post.

"Like most businesses, Canada Post assesses the needs of its customers on an ongoing basis. This is part of standard business practice," Lecompte said in an email response to The Lake Report. "The decision to change the post office hours was taken this year."

A local Canada Post employee said extra hours of operation were added to provide better service to residents and tourists.

"I haven't heard it myself but I think that there were suggestions how to better serve the Niagara-on-the-Lake community and extend the hours into evenings and on Saturdays as well," she told The Lake Report.

NOTL resident Bruce Harvey, who stopped by the post office last Saturday, said he thinks the changes were made to accommodate tourists.

"A lot of tourists are buying stamps and mailing postcards," he told The Lake Report. "I think it's a good thing for tourists in the summer, like from May till October."

Another NOTL resident, Asti Livingston, shared the same sentiments, noting NOTL is bustling with tourists each weekend.

"I think that's why they decided to have it open on the weekends," she said. "It's lovely, I think it's good because a lot of the tourists who come here want to send letters out or they want to catch up with some stuff and they realize everything is closed, except for the tourist stuff."

Hallie Arrigon from Cleveland, Ohio, who was in town last Saturday, used the post office to send postcards to some of her college

friends.

"We got some postcards from a shop a couple of blocks away and asked about getting stamps and the women there told us they thought the post office was closed on Saturdays," Arrigon said, adding she and her companion were "pleasantly surprised" when they saw it was open.

Amity Small, who travelled to NOTL from New Hampshire for the long weekend also had some postcards to send home. She said she didn't know the post office was open on Saturday but was "pleased to drop them off."

"To get out on the weekend and get some stuff mailed, it's good," she said.

Old Town resident Anne Milchberg said she was "thrilled" with the new hours, while Erica Moncion said it was convenient for people who work all day and can't make it to the post office on time.

"I think residents here are really going to appreciate having those extra hours on Saturdays," she said, noting she wasn't sure how many tourists would access the local post office. "But it's always a nice service that's available should they want to buy something and mail it."

"It's good for us that it's open late a couple of nights a week," Bryan Moncion agreed. "That way ... when we're busy, we don't have to worry and can get here by 7 (p.m.)"

On Monday, Tuesday and Thursday the office is open from 8 a.m. till 7 p.m. On Wednesday and Friday, it runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on Sundays. The new Saturday hours came into effect on June 10.



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Pauline Reimer Gibson  
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Sean Degroot swings his grandson Elijah Flynn through the wading pool at Simcoe Park. EUNICE TANG

## WADING INTO SUMMER

# Fix It: Garbage pickup delays

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

Kaspar Pold was planning to bring his garbage, which wasn't picked up for two days in a row, to the Niagara-on-the-Lake's town hall on Tuesday after Canada Day celebrations were over.

His garbage was picked up on Saturday morning but Pold, who lives on Concession 2 Road, said there have been constant delays with the garbage collection for the past two years.

Pold said his garbage hadn't been collected last Thursday and the following Friday morning although the recycling was picked up later on Friday afternoon.

"To me, this is incomprehensible," he told The Lake Report questioning how the garbage can be left untouched if the recycling has already been picked up.

He said for the past 11



Kaspar Pold says the garbage pickup collection delay on Concession 2 Road, where he lives, is not uncommon. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

years, the pickup service was working like "clockwork" with no problems "even for one day." Once the collection issues started, the pickup times "stretched longer and longer" and a two-day delay is now not "uncommon."

Pold expressed concerns with the garbage sitting outside as it attracts animals, especially in the summertime.

"What I don't understand is a stark contrast between

two years ago and now ... I can understand the occasional misfire but last year was a whole year of misfiring," he said. "Looks like it's starting up again this year. Maybe they have a problem with staff, I don't know."

After Pold emailed the town and received no response, he contacted The Lake Report. The newspaper got him in touch with Lord Mayor Betty Disero who forwarded Pold's complaint to the Niagara Region

which is responsible for the garbage pickup in NOTL.

In her email response to Pold, Disero said there have been "ongoing issues with the contractor."

As the region's new waste collection contract is set to start in 2021, the region's public works committee was recommending switching to every-other-week garbage collection which gained an evenly split reaction from residents, according to the region's preliminary survey results.

NOTL committee of the whole voted against the region's recommendation during a meeting in February.

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A sailboat and Canadian geese share the water in Lake Ontario. EUNICE TANG

## Summer scenes

### Canadian culture celebrated on international student's first day of classes

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

Jaweria Mohsin jumped into Canadian culture during belated Canada Day celebrations at Niagara College campuses Tuesday afternoon.

Mohsin, an international student from India in her second year of the hospitality and tourism program, says she's eager to move forward in her Canadian life using the skills she's learned at college paired with real-life work experience.

Canadian culture was a bit of shock for her when she first arrived in the country, but she says overall, she prefers the values and advancement here – but our food could use some spicing up.

"It's a cultural difference. Your food is bland, we have habituated to eating spicy, flavourful food," she said.

Taking her desire to see more halal food options and her drive to succeed, Mohsin says in three years she aims to open her own mixed-cuisine restaurant.

Right now, she's working as a data manager assistant and is also employed part-time in a restaurant while attending college and raising her one-year-old.

"It's all worth it though, she says, to get her to the dream she's had for more than seven years.

"I wanted to explore Canada. It's been a long-standing dream," she said.

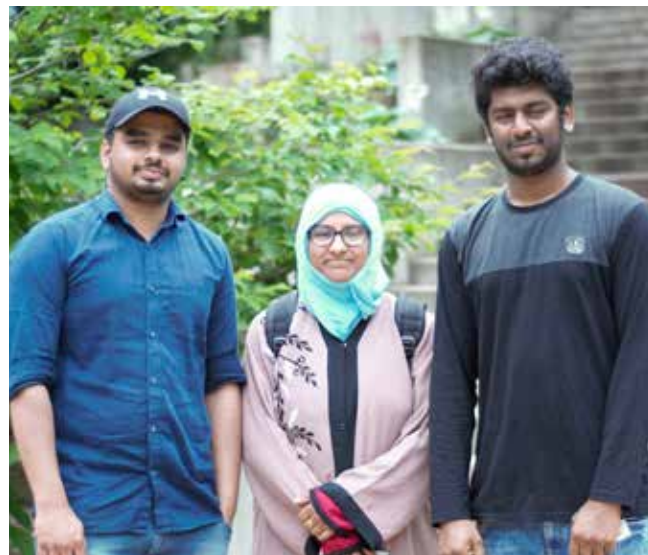
She says she celebrated Canada Day at Charles Daly

Park in Lincoln, enjoying the fireworks and music.

Tuesday afternoon's celebration organized by Niagara College's International Division, the Centre for Student Engagement and Leadership and NC Student Administrative Council offered Mohsin and her classmates, Akhil Nazim and Indeevar Arya, another chance to dive into Canadian culture.

"What we see in a professional way is this country is far more ahead. Back home it's still run on the old principles of leadership, I guess, where many things are not given priority – like our emotions, or our mental state," Mohsin said.

The students stayed in the courtyard for the afternoon,



Akhil Nazim, Jaweria Mohsin and Indeevar Arya celebrate Canada Day in the courtyard of Niagara College with poutine, ice cream and games on Tuesday.  
BRITTANY CARTER

taking advantage of the free poutine and ice cream sun-dae bars that were available

to everyone in attendance. "We're here to make memories and enjoy the

day," Nazim says.

Over the afternoon, the college hosted about 500 students between the Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Welland campuses.

July 2 marked the first official day of classes for many international students and also served as an unofficial summer kick-off.

Tom Price, president of the Student Administrative Council, said the event is an excellent way to welcome new and existing international students and to help integrate them into Canadian culture.

"It's nice to come out and experience the diversity of the Canadian culture, sort of that welcoming spirit of Canada, and a sense of inclusion," Price says.



  
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# Hometown go-getter starts new Niagara Running Club

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

Running is a lifestyle for NOTL resident Daniel Turner. During the last election he ran for lord mayor as the youngest candidate in Niagara-on-the-Lake at 23 years old, now he's running up and down the Niagara River Parkway with a new running club open to any fitness enthusiasts – Turner with two friends Matteo DeLuca and Emilie Vad Johannsen started the new Niagara Running Club mid-June.

Each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. the small group meets at the corner of East and West Line Road and the Niagara River Parkway for a five-kilometer run.

The trio started the club to get in shape, to hold each other accountable and to train for the Niagara Falls International Marathon this October. Turner said they

wanted to open the small training group to the public in hopes of it “snowballing into something bigger.”

With more people interested, Turner said there is more accountability and a stronger desire to keep coming out each week. The club also serves as a great way to network with other like-minded people who can encourage and push each other to train harder, he said.

“Now that we have these beautiful trails and these nice sunny days, I figured we might as well start this group and see how many more people we can get to join in our goal. Maybe we can get a big team going for this marathon this fall,” Turner said.

The club officially began meeting on June 19 and Turner said they'll continue to do so each Wednesday all summer. Right now, he said he's seen just under a dozen people out for the weekly



Rachel Debon, one of the first members runs with Daniel Turner and Matteo DeLuca, founders of the Niagara Running Club. BRITTANY CARTER

five-kilometre jog, but he's hoping more will decide to make the commitment.

Rachel Dubon, one of the club's first members, said she was thinking of starting something similar after travelling abroad.

“I was in England and they had a little running club going. I thought, ‘This would be so cute to do in Niagara-on-the-Lake, to keep people accountable and get the community together.’ Then I saw that he did it, so I thought that's perfect.”

She said she loves running, but sometimes she dreads running alone. The club offers her the opportunity to meet other runners

locally.

“It's neat, you get to go out with people you've never met before and go for a run,” she said.

The club is free and casual – running dates and meetups can be found on the Facebook page under The Niagara Running Club.

Turner said the group will also be holding longer runs throughout the summer.

“It's been a great way to meet new people across the region who share our passion for running,” he added.

It is open to anyone – Turner said he wants to encourage beginners and regular runners to come out and share their love of running.



Scott Langill and Paul Evans, the fourth winners of the Garden of the Week contest, for their garden on Johnson Street. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

## Johnson Street property wins Garden of the Week

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

The garden at the historic house on 118 Johnston Street is the fourth winner of the Garden of the Week contest.

Paul Evans and Scott Langill have been owning the bed and breakfast, also known as The Stocking House, for two years. The 200-year-old house is named after the home's first owner, Jared Stocking, said Langill.

“It's a wonderful pleasure to have such an honour in

Niagara-on-the-Lake because it's the prettiest town in Canada,” Langill told The Lake Report. “And it's great to participate in that and we want all the other homeowners to win every week as well.”

“This is an old-fashioned garden that frames the period home with a mix of trees, shrubs, perennials and stone sculptures,” the judges said in a news release from the Town of NOTL. “In addition, a lovely arbor is covered in roses and window boxes which completes the look.”

# NOTL wines recognized for excellence

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

Four NOTL wines have been recognized with the 2019 Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Excellence.

Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate was honoured for its 2016 Grand Reserve Merlot while Peller Estates took home the award for its 2016 Andrew Peller Signature Series Riesling.

The Niagara College Teaching Winery stood out with its 2017 Gastronomy Chardonnay while Trius Winery and Restaurant excelled with its 2016 Showcase Red Shale Cabernet Franc.

A total of 11 Ontario wines were chosen as award recipients for their overall excellence from 542 wines submitted by 78 wineries.

The awards were presented by Lt.-Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell at George Brown College during the fourth Annual Winetario event, which showcases the best Ontario VQA wines.

The shortlist for the Lieutenant-Governor's Award is sort of an all-star listing compiled from the top wines from the annual Ontario Wine Awards, which took place in June at Niagara College, said Tony Aspler, the

competition's founder.

“Once we have the scores for the wines entered into the Ontario Wine Awards competition, I take the 20 top-scoring wines and have them retasted by a panel of masters of wine and master sommeliers, top Ontario tasters and a guest British judge Jamie Goode,” Aspler said in an email to The Lake Report.

“They are instructed to select the best wines (usually 8 to 12) to receive the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Ontario Wines,” Aspler said.

Gavin Robertson, winemaker and instructor at

Niagara College's Teaching Winery, was pleased with the award.

“It's always great to see our teaching winery products do well in competitions because it demonstrates to our students – who are very much a part of our everyday winemaking operations – that the lessons that we deliver in lecture and labs hold true when scaled-up in commercial application,” Robertson said in a news release.

NOTL wineries took home 41 medals – 11 gold, 14 silver and 14 bronze – at the Ontario Wine Awards.



NOTL wines recognized for excellence. Gavin Robertson, winemaker at the Niagara College Teaching Winery is pictured with a bottle of the award-winning wine, 2017 Gastronomy Chardonnay. SUPPLIED PHOTO/NIAGARA COLLEGE

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# One **cake** to rule them all



Top left: Chef Catherine O'Donnell cuts the slab of the giant Canada Day cake. Top right: Mike Barrett, a NOTL Resident, celebrates Canada's birthday at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124. Bottom left: Flat Broke band, consisting of Michael Wainwright, Doug Boudreau and James Moore, performs at Simcoe Park. Bottom middle: Slabs of cake were handed out Monday afternoon for Canada Day. PHOTOS BY DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

## Ravine rocks on Canada Day

Richard Harley  
Editor

Literal hearts and smiling faces lit up the St. Davids sky Monday night, as a fireworks display at Ravine Vineyards Estate brought another event-packed Canada Day in Niagara-on-the-Lake to a close.

The show drew hundreds of people to Ravine to hear live rock music and let loose.

"Ooohs and ahs," could be heard from the crowd as the fireworks went on, followed by phrases like "it just keeps going!"

Paul Harber, co-owner of Ravine, said the show was

just under a half hour long.

"It's one of our favourite days of the year, for sure," he said. "It was another sunny day in St. Davids. The weather lucked out, the crowds came, the people were happy."

The show has been growing every year he said, with only about 70 people turning up for the first one. After that, Ravine hired a professional fireworks company to do the display. Since then the popularity has only grown.

This year Ravine offered up \$5 food options, cold drinks from the winery, and a selection of Niagara bands on stage.

"Next year will be even bigger," Harber said.

He wouldn't disclose how much money it takes to put on a half hour of fireworks, but he said the dollar amount is "priceless."

"It's not about the money, it's about the smiles. We're happy to spend it for the community to really come together and enjoy themselves, as families, as neighbours, and you can't really put a return on that. It's something that I think, especially up our neck of the woods, that St. Davids really needs as far as the ability to have a chance to come together as a town, as a village."



The Mandevilles rock the Canada Day celebrations at Ravine. RICHARD HARLEY

Particularly special this year were fireworks that exploded into hearts and happy faces.

Harber said he's already

gotten a few calls from people who haven't seen them before.

"We like to do something special every year," he said.

The event ran most of the day and raised money for Gillian's Place and the fund for the restoration of the St. Davids Pool.



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Julie Dyck, pharmacist and owner, Carlyne Baum, pharmacy assistant, Taylor Mottola, pharmacist and Sharrie Gonta operations manager - Stone Road Pharmacy. BRITTANY CARTER

## Stone Road Pharmacy opens

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

The new pharmacy on Niagara Stone Road officially opened its doors on Tuesday morning and owner Julie Dyck said she wants to welcome the community with open arms.

Staff and customers of Stone Road Pharmacy celebrated the opening with free cookies and refreshments, and with ample conversation.

Dyck said the new location will offer personalized care, with seating and space for one-on-one interactions.

“It’s about relationships, getting to know people. That results in better health-care – if you know that this person forgets to take their evening meds, for example, you can come up with something more custom or curated to their lifestyle,” Dyck said.

She added that the business is about more than

transactional operation, it’s about building community and really helping them on a personal level.

The four staff are all NOTL residents, which Dyck said was a nice touch. “We’re here for the community.”

Dyck said she always dreamed of opening her own pharmacy. “I come from an entrepreneurial family – my dad owned a local business here for 35 years before selling recently.”

Growing up in Virgil, she said that it’s nice to open this new venture at home.

The pharmacy, which is in the same plaza as the new Starbucks in Virgil, will be open early during the week. Dyck said she wanted early hours to allow residents to grab what they need while picking up their morning coffee on the way into work.

It is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

## ‘Never had a cold’ Esther Phipps turns 100

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

There’s something to be said for living a simple life says Esther Phipps, who turned 100 on June 28.

She celebrated living a full century with some family, friends and staff at the Upper Canada Lodge on Friday afternoon. Holding her card from the Queen, which is traditionally given to Canadians who reach 100 years, she sipped tea while waiting for her guests to arrive.

She says she has no secrets for reaching such an iconic age, though she admitted she’s always been “pretty healthy.”

“I’ve never had a com-

mon cold. Other than a few surgeries, nothing much. Just little things, a knee replacement. I lost an eye – cataract.”

Her advice to the younger generation? It’s quite simple: “Don’t waste your life.

Don’t sit at home and think what should have happened to you, feeling unlucky. Get out, get on with it,” she says.

Remembering living in England during the second world war, Phipps says she was never really frightened, “I didn’t have time to be frightened.”

She made it through the war and on to 100 years with the mentality that she just would, she says.

“I never thought that I wouldn’t survive.”



Esther Phipps celebrated her 100th birthday on Friday. BRITTANY CARTER

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Thank you.

There lives a centarion in Queenston who is inviting friends to come and say hello.

No, it's not Laura Secord. It's Roberta Stark-Chevers. Roberta is 100 on July 7 and invites you to come between 1 – 4 on July 7. The address is 5 Queenston St. in the village of Queenston (L0S 1L0). She asks only for your presence. No gifts. No need to RSVP. Please come if you can. 905 –262-4532

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<b>Jass Mazz: Summer Sunday Morning Music Festival - 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church</b> <b>Walking Tours of Old Town - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park</b> <b>Ghost Tours of Fort George - 8:30 p.m. - Fort George</b>	<b>Yellow Door Theatre Summer Camp Program (July 8 to July 19) - Yellow Door Theatre Project</b> <b>Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</b> <b>Committee of the Whole - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers</b> <b>Public Meeting: 445 Line 2 Road - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers</b>	<b>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</b> <b>Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</b> <b>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</b> <b>Scandal &amp; Gossip Tour - Niagara Historical Society &amp; Museum</b>	<b>4 Week: Create Your Own Design Class - 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</b> <b>Special Council Meeting: Presentation of Draft Plan - 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Council Chambers</b> <b>NOTL SupperMarket - 9 p.m. - The Village</b> <b>Cider with Gavin Reimer - 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Food and Wine Institute of Niagara College</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Battle of Fort George, War of 1812 Re-enactment - All Day - Fort George</b> <b>Walking Tours of Old Town - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park</b> <b>Music Niagara's Opening Gala: Countermeasure - 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church</b>	<b>Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</b> <b>Therapy Tails with Jasper - 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</b> <b>Town Council Meeting - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers</b> <b>Music Niagara's From Vienna to Broadway: Cabaret - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Oast House Brewery</b>	<b>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</b> <b>Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</b> <b>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</b> <b>Ghost Tours of Fort George - 8:30 p.m. - Fort George</b>	<b>Simpson's Seniors' Luncheon - 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. - Simpson's Community Centre</b> <b>Maker Club: Sculpture with Polymer Clay - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</b> <b>Fresh From the Garden - 1 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</b> <b>NOTL SupperMarket - 9 p.m. - The Village</b>

Know of a local event? Tell us. Submit it directly to [www.niagara.com](http://www.niagara.com)



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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>4</b> <b>Clare's Bike Night - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.</b> - Clare's Harley-Davidson <b>Niagara Jazz Festival presents Live Learn Jazz: Women Of The Hour, Sax in the Vineyard - 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.</b> - Stratus Vineyards <b>Ghost Tours of Fort George - 8:30 p.m.</b> - Fort George	<b>5</b> <b>Artist Workshop: Impressionistic Architecture with Julie Ponesse - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</b> - RiverBrink Art Museum <b>Duplicate Bridge (Sancionted ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.</b> - NOTL Community Centre <b>Mahjong Game: Drop in - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.</b> - NOTL Community Centre <b>Trius Red Presents Movie Night in the Vineyard: You've Got Mail - 8 p.m.</b> - Trius Winery & Restaurant	<b>6</b> <b>Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.</b> - The Village <b>Cherry Festival - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.</b> - St. Mark's Anglican Church <b>28th Annual NOTL Garden Tour - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.</b> - NOTL Horticultural Society <b>Niagara Etsy: Hydrangeas + Handmade at Mori Gardens - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.</b> - Mori Gardens <b>Canada Historic Places Day at The Museum - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.</b> - Niagara Historical Society & Museum
<b>10</b> <b>My Own Garden</b> - Mori <b>Meeting: Shift Strategic</b> - Council <b>Net - 4:30 p.m. to</b> <b>Robertson -</b> <b>at Niagara</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Clare's Bike Night - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.</b> - Clare's Harley-Davidson <b>Maker Club: Build Your own Inspiration Board - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.</b> - NOTL Public Library <b>Barbecue Marinades and Rubs - 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.</b> - Canadian Food and Wine Institute at Niagara College <b>Concert by Guernsey Music Centre, from the Channel Island of Guernsey - 7 p.m.</b> - St. Mark's Anglican Church	<b>12</b> <b>Science Fun Fridays - Noon to 1 p.m.</b> - NOTL Public Library <b>Duplicate Bridge (Sancionted ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.</b> - NOTL Community Centre <b>Mahjong Game: Drop in - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.</b> - NOTL Community Centre <b>Trius Red Presents Movie Night in the Vineyard: The Notebook - 8 p.m.</b> - Trius Winery & Restaurant	<b>13</b> <b>Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.</b> - The Village <b>Angels Rest Dog Sanctuary Yard Sale &amp; BBQ - 8 a.m.</b> - 1079 Queenston Road <b>Battle of Fort George, War of 1812 Re-enactment - All Day</b> - Fort George <b>Walking Tours of Old Town - 11 a.m.</b> - Queen's Royal Park <b>Family BBQ: Polonia Park - 4 p.m. to 11 p.m.</b> - 765 York Road
<b>17</b> <b>Day - 8:30</b> <b>son's Pharmacy</b> <b>a pet fish</b> <b>- 11 a.m. to</b> <b>brary</b> <b>den - Noon to</b> <b>Library</b> <b>et - 4:30 p.m. to</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Power Off &amp; Play: On the Road! (NOTL Public Library) - 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.</b> - Memorial Park <b>Clare's Bike Night - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.</b> - Clare's Harley-Davidson <b>Art &amp; Fashion Lecture Series: Collecting Fashion, What and Why the Fashion History Museum - 7:30 p.m.</b> - Niagara Historical Society <b>Ghost Tours of Fort George - 8:30 p.m.</b> - Fort George	<b>19</b> <b>Duplicate Bridge (Sancionted ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.</b> - NOTL Community Centre <b>Music Niagara's Easy Fridays: The "jeru" Quartet, Music of the Legendary Chet Baker - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.</b> - Pondview Estates Winery <b>Proud Mary: The CCR Experience - 7:30 p.m.</b> - Corks Winebar & Eatery <b>Trius Red Presents Movie Night in the Vineyard: Jurassic Park - 8 p.m.</b> - Trius Winery & Restaurant	<b>20</b> <b>Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.</b> - The Village <b>Walking Tours of Old Town - 11 a.m.</b> - Queen's Royal Park <b>Grape Growers of Ontario's Kick the Dirt - 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.</b> - 1315 Line 2 Road <b>Music Niagara's Paris Connection: Odin String Quartet - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.</b> - St. Mark's Anglican Church <b>Proud Mary: The CCR Experience - 7:30 p.m.</b> - Corks Winebar & Eatery

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# Splashing around



Levi Leslie playing at Virgil Splashpad. EUNICE TANG



Coming from Toronto, Chloe Trinidad and Venice Delrosaria splashing in the fountain at Simcoe Park. EUNICE TANG



Spotted, mermaid swimming at Simcoe Park fountain in NOTL. EUNICE TANG

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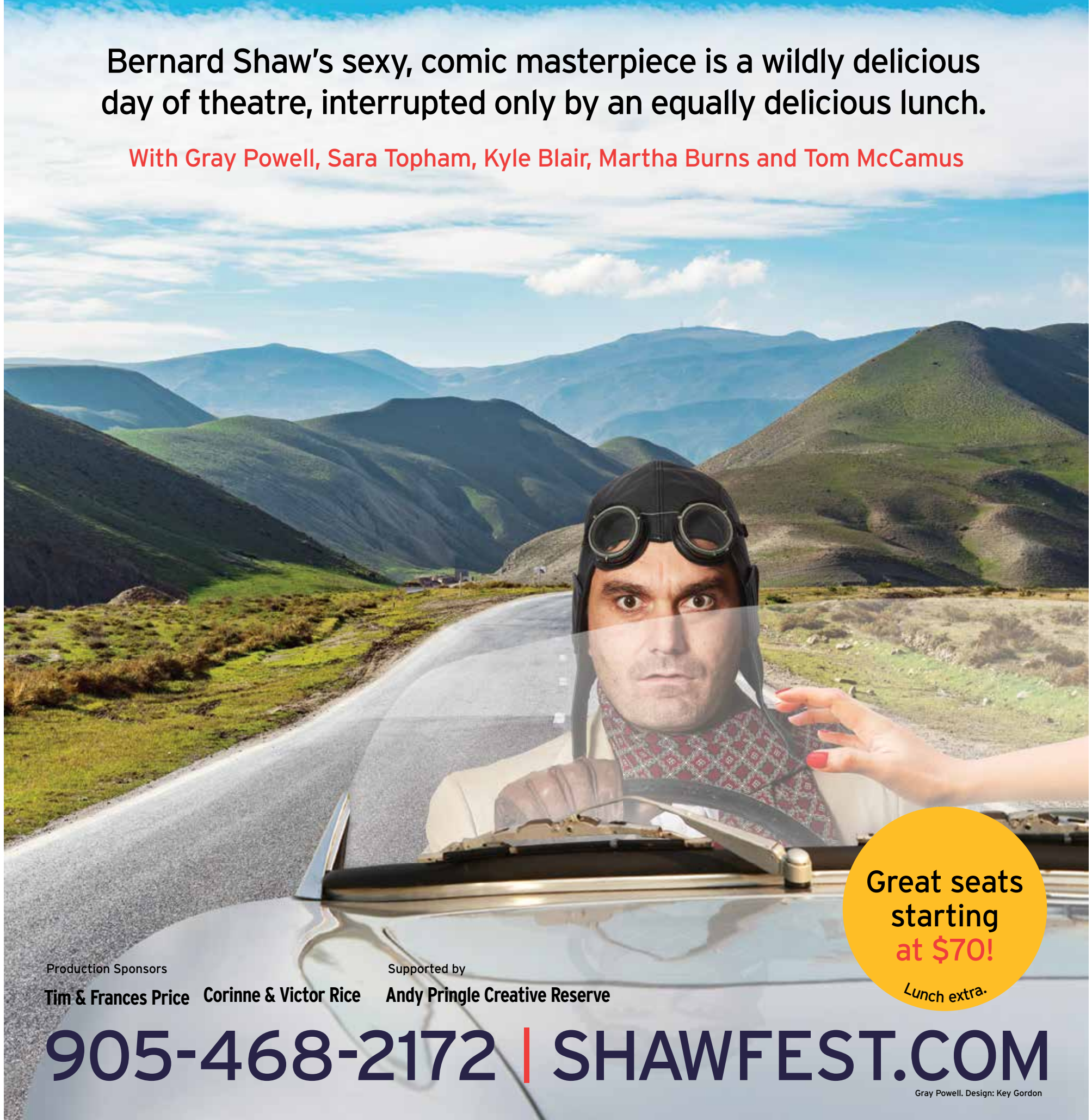
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Gray Powell. Design: Key Gordon





The Niagara, sunk in Tobermory, was once used as a sand sucker on the Niagara River in NOTL. SUPPLIED PHOTO/DAVID GILCHRIST.

## Sand sucker lives on as dive wreck

Jill Troyer  
The Lake Report

The photo of the sand sucker ship published in Jim Smith's Exploring Photos column in The Lake Report last month prompted one of our readers to share an interesting story about one specific sand sucker that once operated daily on Lake Ontario at the mouth of the Niagara River.

Local dive instructor Joseph Mulholland called TLR to point out that one of the 3 sand suckers that used to dredge sand from the Niagara River in the 1960s, is now a dive site. The Niagara was purposely sunk as a dive site in May 1999, just outside of Fathom Five National Marine Park in Tobermory. Seeing the sand sucker in the paper stirred up some diving memories for Mulholland, who says in the past he took dive students to Tobermory

every weekend from May 24 to Thanksgiving, for six years running. "The Niagara is amazing for training, because it's all wide open, it was an absolute blast to dive on." Mulholland explains that the ship was well prepared for safe diving, with "everything that could possibly snag a diver removed, so it's like a swim through, very safe." When The Niagara was sunk, Mulholland says it was done strategically, "placed so novice divers can go around at the top, where the wheelhouse is only at a depth of 50 feet." The maximum depth is 90 feet, making it appealing to more advanced divers as well. Mulholland says "divers are enamoured of shipwrecks, they want to find one, go into it, and look out. The Niagara is great because you can swim to the steering wheel and look out the window, and divers are curious to find that feel-

ing in a wreck."

Another local diver, David Gilchrist, says he has dived The Niagara "a dozen times or more." Gilchrist says "it's a wonderful dive site, because the ship is intact." Gilchrist says it was quite a process to transform the working ship into a dive site. He says "it had to be cleaned up, and made safe for divers. Large holes were cut in the sides to allow divers to enter and exit the wreck." Once it was towed to Tobermory, "the Peel Regional Police bomb squad set an explosion to sink the ship." According to Gilchrist "it's a very popular wreck, and it takes the pressure off some of the older shipwrecks in the area, because it's a great wreck to use for training."

Mulholland adds, "it's cool that we can still see it and it's still serving a purpose."



The sand sucker is now a dive site. SUPPLIED PHOTO/DAVID GILCHRIST.



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The 32nd annual artisan event brings people to Queens Royal Park. EUNICE TANG

# Artistry by the Lake takes over Queen's Royal Park

Eunice Tang  
The Lake Report

Art, clothing, woodwork, glassware, jewelry, food vendors and many more brought people to Queen's Royal Park in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The Artistry by the Lake

event, saw more than 80 artists and artisans participate, while local catering company Pig Out served up some pulled pork.

When asked what attracted visitor Cameron Grant to the event, he said it was "supporting artists."

"People share their work

and hopefully try to sell it and support that and hopefully that leads them to further business," he said.

Another visitor, Doug Mantegnam said what makes these events special for him is the wide variety of art available and one-on-one interactions with the

artists.

"They bring a lot of different forms of art in one media area. You got everything from jewelry to clothing to woodworking. A lot of unusual things sometimes and it's quite interesting what artists think about their work," he said.



Top to bottom, left to right: Woodwork displayed at Butlersburg Woodworking vendor at Queens Royal Park, NOTL. Shoppers perusing the wares at the artisan market. Kobbler Jay performing stunts. EUNICE TANG



## Calling all cooks!

Local recipe book planned for 2019

The Lake Report is calling on all cooks, chefs, bakers and food enthusiasts in Niagara-on-the-Lake. We want your favourite family recipes, and the stories that go with them, to share with the community. Whether it's a special stew, soup, or salad; the best bread or muffins; or a decadent dessert, we'd like to hear from you!

We'd love it if you could include pictures of the food where possible, and of the family member who might have passed the recipe down. If there is any family folklore associated with the recipe, we'd love to hear that too. Maybe there's a certain occasion when it's always made, perhaps there's a funny or sad story to tell that relates to that particular recipe, or certain traditions that accompany it.

We will publish selected recipes regularly, and at the end of the year we'll compile all the recipes together as a book of NOTL family favourites. Proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to a local charity.

**Please send your recipes, pictures and stories to: [recipes@niagaranow.com](mailto:recipes@niagaranow.com)**

The top recipes will be published in an annual paperback book which will be available (in limited supply) to residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake at The Lake Report office. This year's book (title uncertain!) will be released in the coming months!

### Did you know?

The Lake Report's printer sources 100 per cent of its paper fibre from industry leading paper mills, which use quick-growth, sustainable, renewable plots of land, rather than clear-cutting forests. The ink is also vegetable-based.



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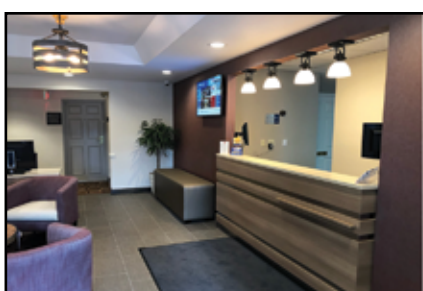
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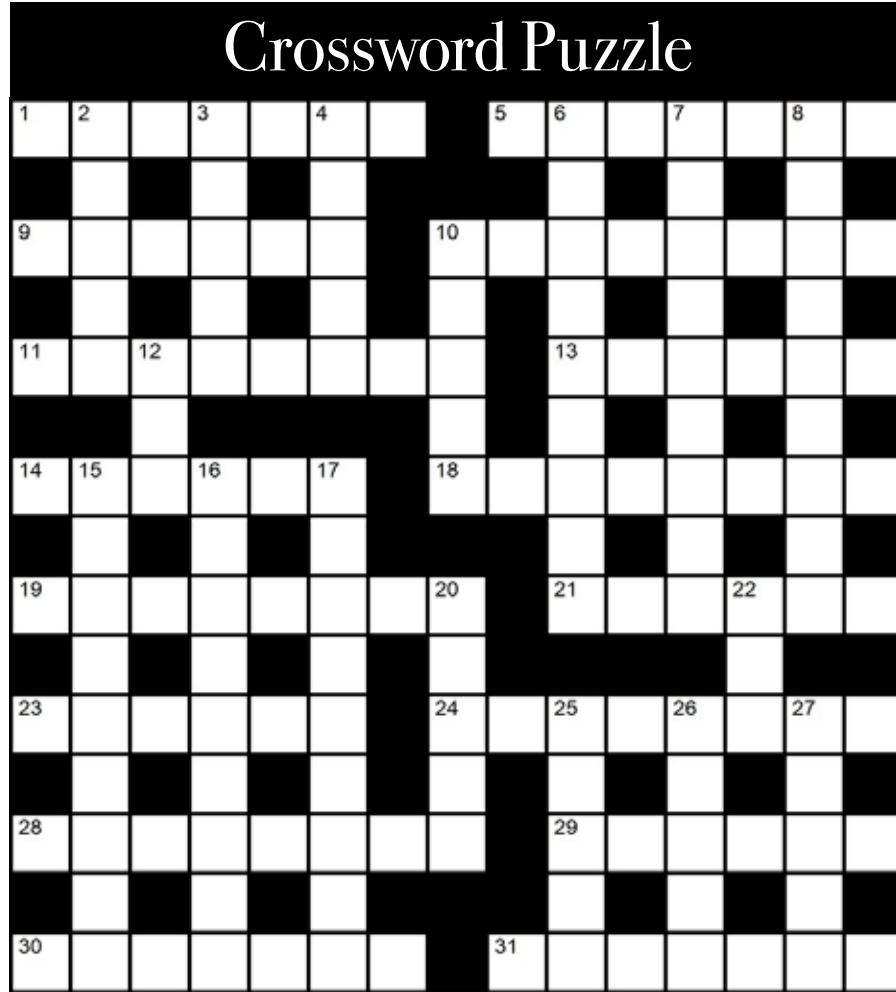
The Lake Report is looking for puzzle makers who would like to help develop this page. We are seeking both standard and cryptic crossword writers. [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com)

**Across**

- 1. Goblet (7)
- 5. Devour (7)
- 9. Biased (6)
- 10. Typo (8)
- 11. Main roads (8)
- 13. Likenesses (6)
- 14. Respect (6)
- 18. Roomy (8)
- 19. Belongings (8)
- 21. Locomotive (6)
- 23. Sucking fish (6)
- 24. Noblewoman (8)
- 28. Unfortunate happening (8)
- 29. Fictional ape-man (6)
- 30. Crisp (7)
- 31. Outlaws (7)

**Down**

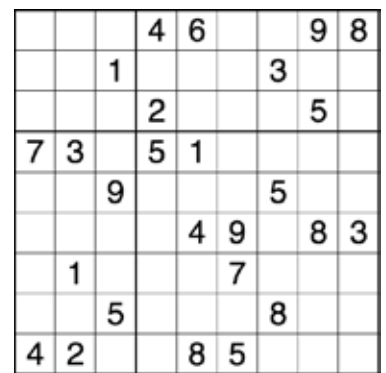
- 2. Capital of Vietnam (5)
- 3. Strap (5)
- 4. About (5)
- 6. Firmly adhering to a purpose (9)
- 7. Hollering (9)
- 8. Dummy (9)
- 10. Spars (5)
- 12. Obtained (3)
- 15. "A --- Named Desire" (Tennessee Williams) (9)
- 16. Detonation (9)
- 17. W Moroccan city (9)
- 20. Vessel used for private cruising (5)
- 22. Fury (3)
- 25. Extremely (5)
- 26. Exhausted (5)
- 27. Point of view (5)



**Last issue's answers**



**Sudoku**



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# Review: Allegra Fulton Shines in Shaw's The Glass Menagerie

Mike Keenan  
Special to The Lake Report

Tennessee Williams, my favourite American playwright, is up there with O'Neill, Miller and Albee, compelling, gut-wrenching yet tender and endearing. When you leave Shaw's Jackie Maxwell Theatre after watching "The Glass Menagerie," you know you have encountered an extraordinary play, so intense that it stays with you forever.

Allegra Fulton's Amanda, a domineering southern belle of a mother, hope faded in the past like that of the Confederacy, is so mesmerizing and skilled that you can't take your eyes off of her, even when she sits and sulks in the gloom of her claustrophobic apartment in a confined labyrinth of a set designed by Hungarian Balázs Czigler who directs this offering with aplomb.

Amanda, her son, Tom (André Sills) and daughter

Laura, (Julia Course) are joined in the second act by a "gentleman caller," Jim O'Connor (Jonathan Tan) in the story of the family's struggle to survive in St. Louis 16 years after Amanda's husband has abandoned them. They are desperately impoverished, both economically and spiritually.

Amanda tries to sell magazine subscriptions on the phone, employing southern charm with trite phrases such as "You are a Christian martyr" to soften up clients, but foolishly calls one at 7 a.m. Tom unhappily works in a shoe warehouse and introverted and handicapped Laura listens to old gramophone music while playing like a child with her menagerie of glass animals.

In one remarkable scene, Tennessee Williams inserts hope and fantasy à la Disneyland into Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness." Course, shy and lame, slowly is enticed



Guy Bannerman (Donald) and Jamie Williams (Blake), Foster Festival 2019 - The Writer.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/ALEX HEIDBUECHEL

from her awkwardness by Tan, a former schoolmate. He acts kind and encouraging. She briefly blossoms, and they magi-

cally ever after.

The Shaw acting is flawless, and Course picks up from where she left off in last season's remarkable "The Baroness and the Pig," her body language exquisite as she physically withdraws from the world. Sills, the narrator, is conflicted with his mother, torn between assisting his sister and leaving. Tan, the high school hero who was the star in debating and musicals, and much admired by the ladies, now works in the factory with Sills. He is sincere and tries to help Course, but Williams ingeniously has him accidentally break Course's favourite glass animal, the unicorn, and also her heart.

Hanne Loosen's costumes are flawless especially the contrasting dresses worn by mother and daughter to greet the gentleman caller. The lighting designed by Mikael Kangas is pre-

dominantly gloomy, the last scene by candlelight as Tom, the would-be poet, has failed to pay the electric bill, joining the merchant marine instead to fashion an escape. Nonetheless, we know that he will never find peace.

Congratulations to artistic director Tim Carroll for staging this Tennessee Williams play as it's been too long since Shaw performed "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof." Menagerie's success in 1945 launched a great career for the troubled playwright, including "A Streetcar Named Desire" (1947), "Summer and Smoke" (1948), "The Rose Tattoo" (1951), "Camino Real" (1953), "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" (1955), "Suddenly Last Summer" (1958), "Sweet Bird of Youth" (1959) and "The Night of the Iguana" (1961).

"The Glass Menagerie" plays at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre to Oct. 12.



Fireworks at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery on Canada Day. RICHARD HARLEY



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# Great NOTL Walkabout: *Canada Day*

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

Welcome to the latest episode of the Great NOTL Summer Walkabout, a summer-long series of stories that will take you to all corners of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Our reporters will trek around the community to meet residents and visitors, attend events, visit area landmarks and tell stories about what they find. Today, a walkabout around Old Town on Canada Day.

What does Canada Day mean to tourists and NOTL residents?

For some, it was just

another work day but filled with more fun and good energy. For many, it was a reminder of what Canada stands for: whether it is diversity or the anniversary of the Confederation. For others, it was a longtime tradition or just a way to have a good time with friends and family.

The national holiday, celebrating Canada's 152nd birthday on July 1, kicked off at Simcoe Park at about 8 a.m. The Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake was serving a pancake breakfast followed by a barbecue lunch while visitors were entertained by The

Flat Broke band and Peter Shea and Juliet Dunn of the TD Niagara Jazz Festival.

Joe Typer of the St. Davids Lions Club, who's been helping with the Rotary barbecue for five years, said for him the celebration is about "joys of Canada, what we've all built Canada to be."

Down on Queen Street, army veteran Chris Walker was waiting for his wife to join him. He said he celebrates Canada Day "militarily" by going to Fort George and watching salutes and drills. Canada Day to him is about Confederation.

A bit farther down the main street, in front of

the Shaw Café and Wine Bar, Gisela Depkat was playing the cello.

"I'm trying to change that whole image that busking is begging," she told The Lake Report, explaining how she has won several international awards and her solo album was nominated for a Juno Award. "So, they can't argue it's riff-raff coming into town."

Depkat, who plays in three orchestras, said her parents immigrated to Canada from Germany. Having settled in Thunder Bay, her father started working as a bricklayer and almost died the first summer because he wasn't used to physical labour. Depkat said she's done a lot of thinking about the refugee situation in Europe.

"You never really lose your identity to your home country, to your native country," she said.

Sitting on the bench beside Depkat and listening to her music was a couple from Washington, D.C. It was the first time Gregory and Kristina Blevins visited Canada. They were attending a relative's wedding in Erie, Penn., and a visit to Niagara-on-the-Lake was recommended.

"It's a beautiful town," said Gregory. "It's very quaint ... very peaceful. And the music is not bad, too!"

The giant Canada Day cake – featuring Snow White, seven dwarves, a bread rack with the bakery's name on it and a cake with a "Happy Birthday Canada" sign was paraded through the Old Town starting at around 3 p.m.

Catherine O'Donnell from Willow Cakes and Pastries and her team of Niagara College apprentices spent up to 400 hours creating the mammoth cake, which weighed over 1,000 pounds. Spectators cheered and clapped as the cake was passed by.

Led by the 41st Regiment Fife and Drum Corps, the birthday cake was escorted to Simcoe Park where it was sliced and served by town councillors, Niagara Falls MP Rob Nicholson, Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates as



Sean O'Donnell slices up slabs of cake on Canada Day.  
DARIYA BAIGUZHUYEVA

well as student volunteers.

It is a family tradition for John Marano, who was celebrating with his daughter and two grandsons, to come to Simcoe Park every year on Canada Day. Marano remembered how he used to come with his daughter Elyse Wood when she was little and would put her on his shoulders so she would be able to get a piece of the birthday cake. Now, Wood has her own children whom she brings to celebrate the holiday.

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 on King Street also celebrated the day. Having a barbecue lunch with some cold drinks, people were enjoying live music by The Rockets. One of those in attendance, Mike Barrett, said his best Canada Day memory is from Expo 67 in Montreal.

"I was born a long time ago but I was around in '67 when we celebrated 100 years. That was also the last time the Leafs won the Cup so that's how Canadian I am," he told The Lake Report.

Robert Packard, a legion executive member, also remembered Expo but for him and his wife Barbara Cole, Canada Day also means a two-year anniversary. Back in 2017, the

couple spent a whole day working together at Fort George and by the end of the day, they got to know each other better and "that was a beginning," said Cole, adding Canada day is pretty special for them.

As NOTL used to be Upper Canada's first capital, the national holiday is also important for the town, said Brian Crocker, another legion executive member.

"My grandfather was a veteran of the First World War, lived in Niagara, was a postmaster in Niagara-on-the-Lake, so I do this for him as a memory for him," he said.

The celebrations continued at Fort George later Monday evening.

Moustapha Chein, who came to Canada from Mauritania three months ago, was at the fort with his wife and friends. He said he is proud to be a Canadian.

"Canada Day to me is the proudest day. People usually talk about the American dream. Let me tell about the Canadian dream," he said. "I'm so proud to be here."

Following a presentation by the Fort George Artillery and Fife and Drum Corps, The Howling Horns took the stage at the fort with fireworks concluding the long day full of celebrations in Old Town.



## Canada Day Colouring Contest

Photo courtesy of Al Huberts, from his colouring book series History of Canada. Please submit your coloured copy for a chance to win a Canada Day prize! For ages 12 and under. Make sure to include your name and age! Send copies to editor@niagaranow.com or to PO Box 724, L0S 1J0 at the NOTL post office.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ Who is in the photo? \_\_\_\_\_



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# Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith

Exclusive to The Lake Report



## The drum corps

When summer came to town so did thousands of soldiers to Camp Niagara. They entertained the townsfolk with pipes and drums during parades as they arrived in town and sometimes they just played for our entertainment. This picture shows one of the parades on Regent Street as the marching band approached Queen in 1955. Mothers were known to keep their daughters home on summer evenings as the soldiers did court young ladies at the dance hall in Simcoe Park. Camp Niagara came to and end in the mid 1960s.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH

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### ARCHITEXT

## What are you knocking on?

Brian Marshall  
Featured



Pictured from left, storm door shutters, a double plank door and six-panel door.  
BRIAN MARSHALL

As we walked past a historic house on Prideaux Street last week, my wife wondered about the purpose of the plank doors that covered the main entry. Replying, I offered that 18th- and 19th-century houses along the lower Atlantic seaboard often displayed louvered door shutters, a tradition that could have been carried north by Loyalists and adapted to Niagara winters in the form of the solid storm door shutters on this house.

My attention thus focused, I began looking more closely at the front doors of the older houses we passed. Not surprisingly, the majority had been

replaced sometime in the last 100 years or so, more often than not with a door in the popular style-of-the-day. No matter how beautiful the new door, this unfortunate trend can, and often does, have a negative impact on a house’s design composition.

On the early settler’s dwelling, the principal consideration for a door was that it be sturdy, weather-proof, and easily constructed on-site. As a result, most of these modest homes would have a door made from two layers of boards (exterior boards set verti-

cally and interior boards set horizontally) with either half-lap or tongue-and-groove joints that were locked together by hand wrought clinch nails.

These double plank doors might be utilitarian or “decorated” with a simple bead running along one edge of each board and/or a nail-head pattern on the exterior side. However, as larger, more formal homes were built, the use of double plank doors was relegated to largely hidden service entries and then abandoned until the advent of English Arts & Crafts

and Neo-Tudor styles of the early 20th century.

Neo-classical and Regency were the go-to styles in the years after the War of 1812. In these houses, the typical front door was an intricate piece of joinery marked by six panels held in place by rails and stiles, which were through-morticed then locked together with wooden pins, dowels or occasionally wedges. Part of the success statement, if you could afford a carpenter-built six-panel door, it was “the” choice until the 1850s.

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# The Mansions of Queen Street

Denise Ascenzo  
Exclusive/The Lake Report

*This is the first instalment of a three-part series looking at some of the magnificent houses of NOTL's historic Queen Street.*

Following the War of 1812, the government encouraged the re-establishment of Niagara-on-the-Lake to be built southwest of Mary Street, out of range of American cannon fire from Fort Niagara. For example, the second courthouse and jail was built away from the Niagara River in the area that is now Rye Park.

However, the town's people preferred to establish their businesses on Queen Street, close to the industrial lake port on the Niagara River. This was a reflection of the confidence the people had with the new Upper Canadian government following the War of 1812. The commercial area of town was mainly from King/Queen to Gate/Queen streets.

It should be noted that unlike large lots away from the commercial heart of the town, the lots along Queen Street are much smaller. This is because they were repeatedly split into properties with smaller street frontage. An example would be lot 69, originally sold as a one-acre square lot after the War of 1812, it was subdivided in 1820 but by 1854 it had been divided five more times.

Many of the houses at the other end of Queen Street (toward the lake) represent the type of well-situated summer properties constructed by wealthy Americans who spent their summers in Niagara-on-the-Lake during the heyday of the grand summer estates that sprang up in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

## 154 Queen St., the Doctor's House

An 1810 plan of the town indicates that there was a



154 Queen St.



157 Queen St.

building at the corner of Gate and Queen streets that operated as a store. However, it would have been burned by the Americans on their retreat from the town in December of 1813.

Thomas McBride sold three-quarters of the property to Edward McBride in 1821, but no building was ever erected on the lot. Later, in 1880, the property was divided again and sold in two parcels to Henry Garrett for \$500. It was Garrett who built the existing structure on the corner in 1881.

In 1929, after several changes of ownership, this house was acquired by Dr. Arthur Bennett. He and his heirs occupied the house for much of the 20th century, hence the reason the house is often referred

to as the "Doctor's House."

## 157 Queen St., Rogers-Blake-Harrison House

The two-storey six-bay (windows) home at 157 Queen St. is somewhat unique in that it was occupied by the original family, the Rogers and descendants through the entire 19th century and into the 20th.

The property was in the possession of John and Mary Rogers before the War of 1812. The family was gravely affected by the war and the American occupation. Upon the retreat of the American forces in December of 1813, the house, like the rest of the town was burned to the ground. However, one of the house's beautiful fireplace mantels was saved by Mrs. Rogers, who

carried it out of the house and into the street. It was later installed in their new home. (A replica of this mantel is on display at the Niagara Historical Museum.)

The present house was built on the same footprint as the first house and was constructed by James Rogers (one of the sons of John and Mary) in 1817. He built the house for his older brother Alexander, who unfortunately died shortly thereafter in 1819. Alexander's gravestone (in St. Mark's cemetery) notes that he was an innkeeper. Upon his death, the inn was run by Alexander's widow, Agnes, who was granted a licence in 1823 to operate an inn, which was called "The Anchor and the Crown".



165 Queen St. PHOTOS BY KEVIN MACLEAN

In 1844, a licence was granted to John Rogers (son of Alexander and Agnes) to "utter and sell Whisky, Brandy & Rum and other spirituous liquors, by retail, in quantities of not less than one quart, to be drunk out of his house." It also seems that John Rogers was involved in the importing and distribution of alcohol, as a letter from A.W. Crooks asks him to procure a large quantity of whisky.

One notable feature of this property was that for a time a wooden three-storey commercial building stood beside the house directly at the corner of Queen and Gate. This was built by John Rogers and his brother-in-law John Blake to accommodate their successful forwarding business. It was torn down around the turn of the 20th century.

## 165 Queen St., McDougal-Harrison House

Merchant Adam Crysler purchased the house before the war of 1812 for £125. Crysler is attributed with building this house in 1820, although it was rumoured that it might

have been built before 1812, possibly having survived the fire of 1813. This rumour was based on evidence of a fire in the structure of the house; however, the majority of town surveys indicate that this structure was built in 1820.

Daniel McDougal, after whom the house is generally named, purchased the home in 1849. At that time he was 67 years old and was a respected leader at St. Vincent de Paul Church. He lived in the house until his death in 1866 at age 84. He may have added the kitchen wing to the back of the house, as this property was assessed at a higher value than the immediate neighbours.

The McDougal family and their descendants continued to occupy the house, often renting it out, until 1921 when the property was sold to William H. Harrison, a prominent Niagara businessman and former mayor.

*More Niagara's History Unveiled articles about the past of Niagara-on-the-Lake are available at: [www.niagaranow.com](http://www.niagaranow.com)*





# COMMUNITY



We invite you to submit photos and stories for consideration in this section. Send your submissions to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com) for a chance to be featured.



*Sail into sunny days*

## Caught in the act



Submitted photo.

Karen Moore captured this photo of a masked bandit eating a bowl of cat food she leaves out for the stray cats at night at her home near Four Mile Creek Road and Lakeshore.



Betty & Jane: Plunger Patrol  
Inspecting NOTL's bathrooms:  
Palatine Hills Winery



Charles Neufeld accepts the Gold Plunger award at Palatine Hills Estates Winery. PLUNGER PATROL

After four decades of grape growing, Palatine Hills Estate Winery has a lengthy history in Niagara-on-the-Lake. It has preserved artifacts that go back to the 1800s. Not just a winery you might stop at for a quick tasting, Palatine Hills has lots to do and is more of a destination stop. Check out the great patio, where you can enjoy a charcuterie board with your wine while engaging in patio games. People come for the history, the wine tours, the tastings, a gathering place for friends and, of course, the wine. Known for its pinot gris this visit had us curious for the rosé. For a small winery, it has many destination qualities. Our destination was the bathrooms. Quality and an attention to detail that began in the vineyard made its way to their bathrooms. Kudos for being totally accessible. The bathrooms were roomy and well-appointed. Something that really stuck out was the fabulous smell. The bathrooms, like the whole place, smelled of wine, in a good way.



## Rainbows of NOTL

Photo submitted by Alesha Cummings

## Queenston firefighters donate \$500 to safety committee

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

The Queenston Volunteer Firefighter Association has donated \$500 to the NOTL safety committee.

The association has given money to a variety of organizations and charities over the years. This time, the safety committee was chosen by Louis Prue, the spaghetti dinner's chair, for two reasons.

"It was one organization we have not given donations to in the past and also because our longest-serving association

member, Jake Redikop, is a longtime member of that organization," said Rob Copeland, president of the Queenston Volunteer Firefighter Association.

The bi-annual spaghetti dinner had the best turnout ever, Copeland said. Around 285 people supported the event, which took place earlier in May.

"Between the dinner and the placemat advertising, the association made a good amount of money that we are now giving back to this and other organizations within our municipality," Copeland said.



Louis Prue, chair of the spaghetti dinner; Rob Copeland, firefighters association's president; Ken Eden, safety committee member; Cathy Wickabrod, chair of the safety committee; and Jake Redikop, safety committee and association's member. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

4/5 Gold Plungers



### RIDDLE ME THIS:

Metal or bone I may be, many teeth I have and always bared, yet my bite harms no one and ladies delight in my touch. What am I?

Last Week's Riddle: To you, rude would I never be, Though I flag my tongue for all to see. What am I?

Answer: Dog

Answered first by: Margie Enns

Also answered correctly by:

Cheryl House, Katie Reimer

Email answers to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com) for a chance to win a prize.

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## Featured local story

# Fruit Festivals: The cornerstone of a NOTL summer

Tim Taylor  
The Lake Report

Since the late 18th century, Niagara-on-the-Lake has celebrated the local tender fruit harvest.

But it wasn't until 35 or so years ago, that the old town churches took up the cause by mounting day-long fundraising events exalting strawberries, cherries and peaches.

Today, St. Andrew's owns strawberries in late June. St. Mark's corners the cherry market in early July. And St. Vincent de Paul does everything peaches in mid-August.

A core staple of all three festivals is pies. Hundreds and hundreds of pies. Assembled, baked and sold by hundreds of volunteers.

Of course, the festivals offer lots of other activities to attract both residents and visitors — there are silent auctions, book sales, bake sales, jams and jelly tables, shortcake tables, bouncy castles, white elephant tables, local entertainment and on and on.

But to everyone who loves the season, it really is about pies.

Strawberries start the fruit festival parade. June's St. Andrew's Strawberry Festival was the 36th year the parishioner-volunteers, and helpers from outside the church, have mounted the fun-filled day.

The bright sunny first day of summer was perfect to buy fresh berries, strawberry pies, shortcake, crepes, jams and preserves. "We use 225 flats of strawberries every year," says Lynn Hale, the festival's communications co-ordinator. That works out to over 2,000 pounds of berries.

At St. Andrew's, pie-making has changed over the years, Hale says. In the past, the pie-making team gathered at a local kitchen and worked together.

"Today, all our pies are made in volunteer's homes using the fresh berries we provide and then delivered on festival day. They are wonderfully fresh, but we never know how many we'll get!"

Hale says: "It would be fabulous if we could find a local commercial kitchen and refrigeration."

Each of the fruit festivals is an important fundraising event that consumes the attention of most of the parishioners, for many months. "We have almost 200 volunteers, working to make this all happen," says Julie Hunter, chair of the St. Andrew's volunteers. "And we pull from the community, too."

"Some years ago," says Hunter, "we were going to cancel the festival. But the Chamber of Commerce called and said: 'You can't cancel, too many visitors count on it.' So, the community has stepped up."

Next on the calendar, cherries at St. Mark's, on Saturday, July 6.

If St. Andrew's pie-making is scattered among the parishioners, St. Mark's is more like a military campaign.

Each July, in the height of the cherry season, Diane Turner buys over 1,100 pounds of cherries for the following year's pies.

Turner, a Niagara-on-the-Lake resident for more than 20 years, took over leadership of the St. Mark's cherry pie volunteers in 2013, after 15 years working as a team member.

"We've used the same recipe since we started in 1988," says Turner. "And there are a lot of the same people doing it."

And the pie-making routine has also remained the same.

Through the winter, the cherries are kept in local cold storage, waiting for the signal to start the month-



Pies are the hot item at summer festivals. RICHARD HARLEY

long pie assembly process in the church hall at St. Mark's.

"We can count on 20 to 25 people for each of the four pie-making sessions every Monday morning in April," says Turner. "We repeat the process every week."

Like a well-oiled machine, the process starts the preceding week. Teams of volunteers bring the now-frozen berries to Addison Hall. Another team makes the filling according to the time-honoured recipe. On Monday morning, the team makes the pastry, and the assembly team puts together the pies and returns them to cold storage, waiting for baking just before the festival.

By the numbers: 104 11-pound pails of cherries, 210 pounds of flour, 260 boxes of lard and 80 pounds of sugar.

This year, the St. Mark's team has made 749 pies for sale, both baked and frozen — a new record.

But they won't last long. "People really want their cherry pie," says Turner.

"They are standing in line at 7 o'clock in the morning and we don't open until 9. Then they literally run all the way to the pie booth." Everything sells out by 11 a.m. — or sooner.

Turner describes the wonderful sense of camaraderie on the pie team: "You really get to know everyone. If you are a new parishioner, it's the best way to get into the church."

Terry Choules, head of the St. Vincent de Paul Peach Festival, says the same thing about his volunteer team. "It is a wonderful way to meet people and get to know our community."

Recent arrivals to Niagara, Choules and his wife Sharyn, were looking for a way to get to know people. They joined the St. Vincent de Paul congregation and immediately became immersed in the Peach Festival, taking over the reins this year.

The final tenderfruit festival of the season takes place on Sunday, Aug. 11, and engages some 70 volunteers. This year they expect to sell 600 pies, both whole and by the piece.

This is the 32nd annual Peach Festival. And Choules proudly counts out the peach treats on his fingers: peach pies, peach sundaes, peach crepes, fresh peaches. "Anything peach-related, we've got it."

Choules admits it is increasingly challenging for his aging fellow parishioners to make the festival happen. Indeed, for the last

### Cherry Pie Recipe

St. Mark's Anglican Church has used this recipe for over 30 years. Try it yourself or just attend the Cherry Festival on July 6.

Ingredients:

PASTRY:

1-3/4 cups (425 mL) flour

3/4 tsp (3 mL) salt

3/4 cup (175 mL) Tenderflake lard

4-5 tbsp to 5 (60-70 mL) ice water

CHERRY FILLING:

6 cups (1.5 L) pitted sour cherries (fresh, frozen and thawed or canned and drained)

3/4 cup (175 mL) sugar

Zest and juice of 1 lemon

1/8 tsp (.5 mL) ground allspice

1/8 tsp (.5 mL) cinnamon

4 tbsp (60 mL) quick cooking tapioca

2 tbsp (30 mL) diced, cold unsalted butter

METHOD:

Mix together flour and salt in a large bowl. Cut in lard with a pastry cutter or gently with finger tips until mixture resembles coarse oatmeal. Gradually add enough water to make dough cling together. Gather into a ball and divide in half. Shape each ball into a flattened round on a lightly floured surface. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C).

Toss fruit with sugar, lemon zest, juice, spices and tapioca. Let stand 15 minutes.

Roll out first round of pastry on a lightly floured surface with a floured rolling pin until slightly larger than an upside down 9-inch (23 cm) pie plate. Transfer into pie plate. Fill with cherry mixture and dot with diced butter. Trim edge of pastry even with pie plate.

Roll out remaining pastry slightly larger than pie and place over cherries. Fold edge of top crust underneath bottom crust; seal and crimp edge with floured fork or fingers. Cut steam vents on top. Place pie on a baking sheet.

Bake in a preheated oven for 20-25 minutes. Reduce heat to 350°F (180°C) and continue to bake until juices bubble and crust is golden, about 30-35 minutes longer. Allow pie to rest 1 hour to allow juices to set. Dust with icing sugar before serving.

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: 2.5 hours

Total Time: 2 hours 45 minutes

couple of years, they have purchased all their peach pies from a local bakery.

"We found it was just too much to peel all the peaches and make and cook the pies, all in the week leading up to the festival," says Choules. "It just wore us out."

"We still use local peaches. And our visitors really

seem to love the pies."

Everyone loves all the pies, regardless of which oven they come out of.

Over just a few hours, on three warm summer weekends, the three churches together sell more than 1,600 fruit pies. And bring a lot of joy to tens of thousands of residents and visitors alike.

News that



Hits home

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