



Ravine fireworks show raises \$17K for residential school survivors | Page 11



'It just blew me away,' master craftsman frustrated by town dealings

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

For the past year, master dry stone craftsman Dean McLellan has been working on the new Niagara-on-the-Lake gateway project.

He had leveraged his relationships with Willowbank School of Restoration Arts and Upper Canada Stone Company Ltd. to get materials donated for the project.

And he reduced his prices to "rock bottom" to get the

Continued on Page 10



Shop local? NOTL's only sign maker says he's ignored by Town of NOTL

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Virgil resident Taylor Lawson doesn't understand why the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake didn't use his sign company for its Shop-NOTL campaign.

"It just seems like in the last couple of years there's no point in trying to operate a small business in this town," Lawson said in an

Continued on Page 3

Canada Day cake **parades** through town

Celebrations went on all day across NOTL. See a roundup of photos on Pages 4 and 5



NOTL's mammoth Canada Day cake parades down Queen Street on July 1, accompanied by creator Catherine O'Donnell. They are led by a carriage with O'Donnell's granddaughter Alyanna, who waves to the crowds of people anxiously awaiting a slice. RICHARD HARLEY

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

It was full steam ahead for Canada Day celebrations this year, with events taking place across Niagara-on-the-Lake to celebrate the

country's 155 anniversary.

There was one thing as common as the colours red and white on the streets — people expressing how grateful they were to celebrate Canada together after two years of pandemic separation.

"The last two years have been awful, just awful," said Cheryl Taylor, manager of NOTL's Victoria Teas & Coffees, at the triumphant return of the cake parade on Friday.

"All the traditions like the Santa Claus parade and the

peach festival. I feel sorry for the little ones because they haven't been getting to make those memories," Taylor said.

She said the best thing about this Canada Day is that it marks a return to in-person celebrations.

Taylor had run out of her store in order to grab some pictures of the parade and partake briefly in the festivities before returning to work.

And it was a sight to

Continued on Page 4

No injuries after small **field blaze** at rural nursery

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

An open air burn got out of hand on Wednesday morning, prompting Niagara-on-the-Lake firefighters to respond.

"We're not 100 per cent sure (what is burning). It could be greenhouse waste but we gotta get the fire out

before we can dig in there," deputy fire chief Darren Trostenko said at the site.

The fire occurred at Brookdale Treeland Nurseries Ltd. on Line 4 Road. Trostenko said the owner told him they had acquired an open air burn permit to dispose of agricultural waste.

"Basically he lit it and it spread more than he ex-

pected it to."

The fire was well under control by 10:30 a.m. No structures caught fire and no one was injured.

"There's been a lot worse situations," said Trostenko.

For open air burn permits there is a maximum wind speed allowed for the fire to take place.

Continued on Page 2



Firefighters quickly got the fire under control. EVAN SAUNDERS

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From left: Reginald Thomas. The graves of soldiers, like Reginald Thomas, whose bodies were never identified, are marked with "Known Unto God" headstones. An image from the bloody and muddy battlefield at Ypres. NOTL HISTORICAL SOCIETY / CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM/ COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION



Firefighters get the blaze under control. EVAN SAUNDERS

Firefighters battle small field blaze

Continued from Front Page

NOTL's maximum allowed wind speed is 24 km/h. Today's wind was well below that — roughly 12.9 km/h — according to professional weather app Windy.

Trostenko said the nature of the fire — a pile of an unknown organic material — means it could be smoking for a long time after the fire is under control.

The nearest hydrant was several hundred metres down the road. NOTL volunteer firefighters were busy transporting water up Line 4 with tanker trucks in order to fight the blaze.

The mild event occurred several days after the fire department released its statistics for 2021. And 2022 is already off to a hot start.

Last year, NOTL's firefighters responded to more than 700 incidents, including 50 carbon monoxide alarms, 186 fire alarms, 192

medical calls, 101 fires, 123 motor vehicle collisions and 75 assistance calls.

"Our volunteer firefighters are dedicated to our residents, fire safety and prevention, and continuous learning and training initiatives. On behalf of Council, thank you for your dedication to the safety and wellbeing of our community," said lord mayor Betty Disero in a statement.

Trostenko was proud of his team for their ability to handle the pandemic and stay committed to the community.

"Our guys and girls — considering everything that everybody went through, so did they — and they continued to come and respond even when going to places where people had COVID," the deputy chief said.

Trostenko has been deputy fire chief for about two and a half years. He had been a volunteer for 30 years before that.

Cherry Festival returns Saturday at St. Mark's

The Lake Report

Get ready for cherries.

The St. Mark's Anglican Church Cherry Festival is coming back in full swing this Saturday.

"We love to do it and interact with people and watch the happiness that it brings to so many," said church warden Andrea Douglas.

"The cherry pies are front and centre," Douglas said.

There will be more than 500 pies available. But they go fast, she said.

Beyond the much sought-

after cherry pies, the festival will include live music, a barbecue, vendors selling jewellery, books, baked goods and clothing, she said.

There will also be activities for children and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's Tiny Museum will be making a guest appearance.

Two heritage interpreters will also be on-site to give tours of the church.

The festival takes place on July 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Mark's on Byron Street, NOTL.

THE MONUMENTS MEN

'Known Unto God' — Reginald Thomas and the Menin Gate memorial

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

Ron Dale
Special to The Lake Report

The Ypres Salient in Belgium was the scene of almost continuous fighting during the First World War.

The poorly drained clay soil between Allied and German trench systems was continuously churned by artillery shells. The area between those trenches, known as "no man's land," was a quagmire of glutinous mud, pocked by flooded shell craters.

During attacks on enemy trenches soldiers had to struggle through this nightmarish landscape, with exploding shells killing and wounding many.

Others were cut down by machine gun and rifle fire. Some slipped into

one of the craters and drowned, unable to crawl out. Some of the wounded who could not be retrieved by stretcher bearers died alone, finally succumbing to grievous injuries.

In many cases the bodies of the dead could not be brought back for burial and were left where they fell.

Of the 424,000 Canadians who served overseas in the First World War, 51,748 were killed in action or died of their wounds. Almost 20,000 have no known grave.

At the end of the war the Imperial War Graves Commission, now the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, was charged with finding and interring the remains of the dead and marking their graves.

In some cases, the bodies could be identified through identity discs or buttons on scraps of uniforms. All Canadian soldiers were issued with identity discs but many of these were lost after a soldier was killed.

Those whose identity could not be determined were buried by the War Graves Commission and a grave marker placed at their head with the inscription "A Canadian Soldier of the Great War. Known unto God."

In 1927, the Menin Gate was unveiled, a memorial commemorating Commonwealth soldiers who were

killed in the Ypres Salient whose final resting place was unknown.

The names of 6,940 Canadians are engraved on the Menin Gate. Among them, is one soldier who briefly lived in Niagara-on-the-Lake and is commemorated on the memorial clock tower cenotaph on Queen Street.

Reginald Thomas immigrated from England in 1910 with his recently widowed mother, his brother and two sisters, settling in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

He briefly moved back to the United Kingdom to stay with another older sister in Wales but then came back to Niagara before the First World War broke out. He worked as an agricultural labourer until soon after his 18th birthday, when he enlisted in the 98th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force on Dec. 16, 1915.

Thomas' battalion sailed from Halifax on July 18, 1916, after several months of training at Niagara Camp in Niagara-on-the-Lake and at the CNE Camp in Toronto.

On arrival in England, the men of the 98th Battalion were assigned to the 6th Reserve Battalion. Thomas was then transferred to the 20th Battalion, at that time fighting in Europe, joining the battalion in Belgium on Oct. 3, 1916.

For the next eight months Thomas fought a series of actions, including the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917.

Despite his participation in several very bloody battles, Thomas emerged unscathed, at least physically. In June, he was sent back from the battle zone to act as an agricultural supervisor, part of a new undertaking by the Canadian Army to grow crops to feed both the troops and the suffering civilian population displaced by the war.

The program was also to teach other soldiers the principles of agriculture to provide them with skills that might prove useful in a post-war world. The agricultural project was a good way to provide men who had been in the heat of action for too long with a respite from the war zone.

This would not last. Thomas rejoined his battalion at the front line in time to participate in the Battle of Passchendaele, one of the most brutal actions of the war.

On the last day of that campaign, on Nov. 11, 1917, he was killed — a year to the day before the war finally ended. His body was never identified.

Reginald Thomas' name is engraved on the Menin Gate and on NOTL's memorial clock tower cenotaph.



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Car windows **vandalized**, police investigating

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A series of car windows and one home window were smashed across the Niagara region last week in a destruction spree that has no reported motive.

Niagara Regional Police Services have launched multiple damage investigations as of June 30 after receiving more than 30 reports of an unknown person throwing large stones and garden pavers through car and home windows, according to a media release.

There has been one reported instance of damage in Niagara-on-the-Lake. It occurred near Townline Rd. and East and West Line on June 30 to Brittany Lepp's Mazda CX-5.

"It was strange because my husband came home late that night. So, it must have been after midnight. And then he was getting up to go to work at about 6:30 and he noticed that the window was broken," said Lepp during an interview on Monday.

The incident mirrors what the police have seen.

"It was reported in most of the incidents that a suspect drove up to the various complainant's addresses, exited his vehicle and then threw a stone/brick through



Someone threw a large rock through the window of Brittany Lepp's Mazda CX-5 on June 30. SUPPLIED

the windows of the various complainants' vehicles," said a police media release.

The release notes that nearly all of the acts of destruction took place between midnight and 6 a.m.

On June 28, the police received 16 reports in the Town of Lincoln alone.

On June 30, another 18 reports were sent in from across the region resulting in 18 investigations.

There are four in St. Catharines, four in Thorold, six in Niagara Falls, one in NOTL and three in Pelham.

Lepp said nothing was stolen from her car.

"I would almost feel

better if they had taken something because then it wouldn't be for nothing," Lepp said.

Const. Philip Gavin with the Niagara Police told the Lake Report there had not been any known reports of theft from any of the incidents.

Her sense of humour is more intact than her car's rear window.

"I appreciated the free rock but the delivery method leaves a lot to be desired," Lepp said with a laugh.

She said her husband George Lepp's car was parked nearer to the road

than hers but the vagrant opted to throw a stone through her car.

The stone blew apart her back window and smashed her wiper blades. It was a much smaller stone than the ones used in the other reported instances.

The police said, in one instance, a 60 pound rock was hurled through the window of a home.

Lepp noted that her house is not in a busy area.

"It's super strange. They must have been cruising around solely for that purpose. Really strange."

"I just don't see what anyone gets from this."

The Lepp's have a doorbell camera but unfortunately the batteries were dead on June 30, something that Lepp was quick to change after the incident.

But other victims did and the police have obtained one photo of the suspect and their vehicle.

The suspect is described as a white male, approximately six feet tall with a thin build.

During the incidents he was reported as wearing dark pants, a dark baseball cap, a blue medical mask and no shirt.

Anyone with information about these incidents are asked to contact Niagara police at 905-688-4111, option 3, extension 1022200.

Town outsourced signage for 'ShopNOTL' campaign

Continued from Front Page

interview on Tuesday.

Lawson Signcrafters is the only signage company in the municipality, he said. The company is listed on the town's own local business registrar intended to promote NOTL businesses.

Earlier this year the town launched its ShopNOTL campaign. It put up signs around town and even printed stickers to put in goodie bags for registered businesses.

Lawson received an email informing him about the campaign and sent one back asking the town what types of services were needed.

He never got a response.

"Somebody shows up at my house a couple weeks

later with, like, a little goodie bag with printed stickers, which I could have done.

Garment bags, like, that were branded, which we can also do," Lawson said.

"And then I go into a grocery store and I see all of these banners on telephone poles which were something that we could have done as well," he said.

Lawson then sent an email, dated Feb. 10, in which he asked the town what company it used and if the project was ever put out for tender.

Again, he said, he never heard back.

The town's list of closed tenders does not show the project was ever tendered.

Town staff had not replied to a question from The Lake

Report by deadline this week about why a tender was never issued.

Lawson later sent an email, on Feb. 17, asking for an apology.

"The Town of NOTL owes my family an apology for not using the only sign shop in town to print the banners and stickers that are now all over the place. We could have even done the installation," his email to the town reads.

"So, as we can barely feed ourselves and survive, your corporation had the stickers and banners produced out of the LOS postal code. Thanks for nothing."

Lawson, once again, never received a reply.

He said the pandemic hit his business very hard.

"It set us back about \$25,000," Lawson said.

He needed to borrow money in order to stay afloat.

"That job right there would have actually alleviated all that," said Lawson.

The experience has left him so crestfallen that he thinks his days in NOTL are numbered.

"Our family is looking to leave," he said.

Lawson said he will probably leave Canada entirely and move to the United States.

A town official said the municipality was working on responses to inquiries from The Lake Report but had not answered any questions by our publication deadline.

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PHOTOS BY RICHARD HARLEY & EVAN SAUNDERS



People line up to get pancake and sausage breakfasts at Simcoe Park.



Ryan Huhs, Kylie Huhs, 3, and Alexa Peters get some breakfast at the park.



How Kudlats handles the grill at the Rotary Club BBQ.



People relax with cold beers at the Legion Branch 124.



A musket demonstration at Fort George.



Juliet Dunn and the TD Niagara Jazz Festival keep the crowd moving.



The Fife & Drum Corps marches the cake into the park.

Canada Day celebrations paint town red and white

Continued from Front Page

behind. A 1,000 pound cake was led by a police car and the 41st Regiment Drum & Fife Corps down Queen Street as thousands of bystanders looked on.

The cake, donated by Willow Cakes & Pastries, was a massive pastry replete with a maple tree made out of frosting.

“This will definitely be a Canada Day to remember. It’s the first one after COVID and so far it is the best one we have ever had,” Lord Mayor Betty Disero

said as she marched down Queen Street accompanied by NOTL councillors, MPP Wayne Gates and MP Tony Baldinelli.

“Looking forward to a positive future,” she said.

“What a great day to experience Canada Day,” Baldinelli said during an interview as he walked down Queen Street.

It was his first time ever at the cake parade.

“I’m gonna be serving some later,” he said.

The cake was marched down into the lowest point of Simcoe Park where hun-

dreds of people descended on the politicians who were serving up slices.

“It’s fantastic to celebrate together. It’s my birthday, too,” said St. Catharines resident Chris Jameson as he dug into a piece of cake surrounded by family and friends.

“It’s great to see people out and having fun,” he said.

Over at Fort George the historical site was a revolving door of visitors from early in the morning until late at night.

“We commemorate the war of 1812 and when we’re

talking about Canada today our very nation actually was on the brink of not being able to exist if the war had gone differently,” said Dan Laroche, site supervisor of Fort George.

“The second part is who did the successful defence of Canada — and that’s the British military alongside Indigenous warriors, many of whom died defending what is our country today. That’s the big deal.”

Laroche gave an enthusiastic presentation on the importance of the War of

1812, dressed head to toe in traditional military garb from the time.

People had come from as far as Calgary and Louisiana to partake in the Canada Day festivities at the Fort.

“We wanted to do something historical today,” said Milton resident Terrence Cochrane at the Fort.

Cochrane and his wife and children were dressed patriotically in shirts covered with red and white maple leaves.

“We’re feeling thankful and privileged to live in a

country like ours,” he said.

At the entryway to the historic site, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum’s tiny museum was standing guard.

The tiny museum was showing historical items particularly relating to the thousands of Canadian troops who trained in NOTL during the First World War.

Volunteer Scott Steele was manning the tiny museum.

“It’s just nice to be able to get out and meet people and share some stories,” Steele said.

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HALL RENTAL AVAILABLE



Top: Chef Catherine O'Donnell helps parade her giant cake down Queen Street to Simcoe Park. Bottom left: NOTL politicians Wayne Gates, Betty Disero and Tony Baldinelli help serve up the cake. Bottom middle: Crowds of people eagerly await a slice. Bottom right: O'Donnell pulls out the first chunk of cake to be cut up and shared with the crowd. RICHARD HARLEY

Enchanted forest cake theme was for the kids, says master baker

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

For 18 years, Willow Cakes & Pastries owner Catharine O'Donnell has been making the mammoth cake for the Canada Day parade.

This year she focused the design around kids.

"I went with an enchanted forest because I just felt that, after two years of ugliness and not being outside, we all wanted to escape to a forest," said O'Donnell in an interview.

"And I just thought, for the kids — I do my cakes for the kids and not for the adults — I thought they

would relate to the little characters and actually feel good," she said. "As much as we all want maple leaves all over it and for it to be truly Canadian, I think that this year was about feeling good."

The cake was replete with whimsical characters and colourful mushrooms.

But there was certainly a very Canadian aspect to the cake. Its centrepiece was a large maple tree.

"I'm many, many generations Canadian. So, very proud," she said.

O'Donnell covers the expenses of the 1,000 pound cake herself. But she said she doesn't think about the cost as a burden.

"It's actually the one way we can say thank you to the community. None of us small businesses would actually be here without the locals sometimes digging a little bit deeper into their pockets to help us."

"So, for me, it's a way of saying, 'Hey, you know what, we appreciate those days where we've screwed up a cake' or 'We appreciate those days where we've done something wrong and you've come back and given us another chance.'"

Like a true artist, O'Donnell said she is still chasing the perfect design.

"I always want them to be more than they are," she said with a laugh.

"I think the day I look at a cake and say, 'Now, I can't do better than that,' then I should actually stop making them. I'm not there yet."

She said there is no better feeling than seeing how excited people get as the cake descends into Simcoe Park.

One of O'Donnell's helpers this year was her granddaughter, Alyanna O'Donnell.

She said seeing Alyanna ride in the electric buggy at the front of the parade and wave like Queen Elizabeth at the crowds was memorable.

"I said, 'Oh my god,' When I saw her doing the Queen wave. I thought, 'Who taught you that?'"

O'Donnell said one of her favourite parts about participating in the Canada Day parade is providing NOTL with something unique that continues to make it a one-of-a-kind destination for tourists.

"We need the locals but let's not be naive — our town survives on tourism," she said.

O'Donnell said she researched whether any other municipalities do something similar for Canada Day. She was pleased to see NOTL was the only one with a giant cake parade.

O'Donnell met a couple from London, Ontario on July 1. They told her they drive to NOTL every year just for the cake parade.

"Imagine how many people in London they've told to come to Niagara-on-the-Lake to see the cake parade," she said. "You want the tourists to choose us over Stratford or us over Toronto."

So hopefully O'Donnell never does make that perfect cake. For it will be a sore day when NOTL's resident cake making master steps down from the annual tradition she has enabled for nearly two decades.

"It's not about Willow (Cakes & Pastries). Doing the cake is about bringing everybody together. But also making our tourists feel really welcome to be in our town."



FINE COLLECTIBLES BY THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND

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

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 53

Region active cases: 392

Region deaths: 566

Region total cases: 41,881

**July 6 data per Niagara Region Public Health.*

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



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"Being negative only makes a difficult journey more difficult. You may be given a cactus, but you don't have to sit on it!" - Joyce Meyer

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Crimson courtship



A brilliant red male cardinal stops in for a visit on a pine tree in Chautauqua. Females are flying around and he's on the chase for a mate. RICHARD HARLEY

Editorial

NOTL needs to go back to the drawing board with bylaws and enforcement

Richard Harley
Editor-In-Chief

Our town has a sign problem — one that's been hurting our small growers and farmers, as we documented in a story about White Orchard Farms last week.

But larger than the sign problem, seems to be an everlasting problem with bylaws and fatuous bylaw enforcement

Whether it's the Town of NOTL having carelessly crafted bylaws, violating its own bylaws, or bylaw officers speeding around town, sometimes behaving aggressively when they put on the uniform, there seems to be a need for some real, swift change within our little community.

Last week a bylaw officer almost ticketed a truck in Chautauqua for pulling up to a home to quickly unload a set of bunk beds for two children.

The officer, with a sour, scolding look on her face, finally relented. But others in the neighbourhood haven't been so lucky and have reported tickets for five-minute visits.

We're sure there are better things bylaw officers could be doing instead of harassing residents.

Oddly enough last year during COVID, it was like pulling teeth to get bylaw officers to stop in and check on COVID infractions.

It makes it difficult to tell what our town's priorities are sometimes. Deadly virus? Meh. Small sign promoting farm produce? Bring in the cavalry.

Are our town's priorities really only to enforce the easy bylaws?

It's unknown who really makes these decisions. But whomever decides the priorities needs to take a long, hard look at things. And

the town's administration needs to take a hard look at them, too.

It seems silly and unfair that so often one single complaint — often anonymous, ensuring an accused violator never knows their accuser — leads to the full power of the state being brought to bear on residents.

With the pickleball noise complaint we saw how one person can affect many others. Now we're seeing it locally with signs being removed.

These petty actions from the town, paid for by public money, need to end.

In a letter to The Lake Report this week another farmer wrote a passionate plea to councillors asking them to reconsider signs that help farmers earn a living. We think that's completely fair.

The people who grow our food deserve more respect

than to be subject to an impractical bylaw that hurts their businesses.

Another problem with our bylaw enforcement is the idea of confidentiality for the complainant. It's absurd and goes against the procedures of every other quasi-judicial body in the country.

Normally, if someone is accused of something, they are entitled to know their accusers.

Maybe people would think twice about registering petty complaints if their names were attached to them.

But the town has often been known to shy away from common sense.

The Town of NOTL needs to get its act together and change its bylaws so farmers can have unobtrusive signs to sell their products. And it needs to rethink its entire enforcement procedure.

editor@niagaranow.com

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 496 Mississauga St., NOTL.



Town's sign bylaw needs to **consider farmers**

Dear editor:

This letter is in response to your article (The Lake Report, June 30, 2022: Signs of Trouble: Town removes farmer's roadside ads) depicting the sign issues being experienced by White Orchard Farms owner David White.

I thank you for writing this article in and educating many readers of this very important and nasty bylaw being faced by many small farmers.

I am in full support of White Orchard Farms and empathize with David's issues regarding the "lack of signage" bylaw.

I am the proprietor of Singing TreeFrog Farm at 488 Townline Rd., a dead-end, unimproved road where I organically grow vegetables and tender fruit. I sell to anyone needing good food at non-inflated prices. I am also an avid donator to Pam

Farrell's GROW Community Food Literacy Centre, a food store to assist low and no-income families.

I also have "lack of signage" issues that should come to the attention, front and centre, of those making the signage decisions.

When I applied for my business sign permit, I was told this sign could only be posted on my property. I was not to add directional signs at the corner of Queenston or York roads to give guidance to my produce. This is not conducive to selling any farmer's produce. For several years, I have tried to rely on my property sign, the internet and word-of-mouth, finding very little impact with these means of advertising.

This past asparagus season (May, June), knowing the limitations of the sign bylaw in NOTL, I decided to bend the rules and try posting a

sign off my property. I was given the nod of approval from a friendly neighbour allowing me to erect a simple sign on the corner of his property to see if it made a difference. Much like White Orchard's sign, mine stated "ASPARAGUS," with an arrow pointing to my location.

For almost two full weeks, I picked asparagus each morning and every day I sold out of all that I picked that day. Well, that income certainly put a dent in my mortgage payments! So, yes, now, without the sign, my mortgage is at stake, as farming is my only income.

Everyone coming to the farm commented that this simple "ASPARAGUS" sign was the trigger for their visits. When they learned that I had other produce, they would come back to buy more produce.

I dutifully removed the sign at the end of the aspara-

gus harvest, trying to be a good farming citizen, only to find a total lack of traffic once again.

Everywhere you go in Niagara-on-the-Lake, winery, brewery and distillery directional signs are seen off-property of these businesses. Why is the little farmer not given the same privileges?

For those making the signage decisions, do they understand that they are contributing to breaking small farming industry in this area?

Council needs to revisit this signage issue as soon as possible. I am being forced to put my farm up for sale after this growing season, directly due to the lack of signage.

In hopes of good decisions soon.

Esther Lucier
Singing TreeFrog Farm
NOTL

Support **Wayne Gates** as Ontario NDP leader

Dear editor:

Now that we have had a couple of weeks to digest the recent provincial election here in Ontario, I for one am ready to offer my thoughts on where we could go from here.

With Andrea Howarth's announcement that she will step down as leader of the NDP, I am looking for an-

other Jack Layton to appear. We all remember Jack: "My friends, love is better than anger. Hope is better than fear. Optimism is better than despair. So let us be hopeful, loving and optimistic. And we'll change the world."

With his greying moustache and warm humour, Jack changed the image

of the New Democrats by bringing believable leadership to the table.

Our own Wayne Gates has a lot of what we liked and miss in Jack Layton. The NDP in Ontario have proved themselves to be conservative minders of our taxes and conservers of our valuable resources.

Cronyism is thriving at

Camp Ford. That rotten disease never had a place at the table in the history of Ontario's New Democrats.

Wayne, I urge you to carry on your work for Niagara and broaden it to all of Ontario.

There are supporters here to help. I am sure of that.

Bill Auchterlonie
NOTL

Listen up: Pickleball isn't just a NOTL problem

Dear editor:

We are in polarizing times and so I get suspicious whenever I hear of two sides staring across a divide.

Take the Great Pickle Ball Controversy. I decided I wanted to hear for

myself what it sounded like. A quick google search produced several videos, and my immediate reaction was, "Whoa! That's loud!"

But more to the point I learned this debate is not limited to our wee village

— it is a major issue across North America. Towns have responded by curtailing court hours, installing sound barriers and requiring players to use rackets and balls that muffle the noise.

Did our town do this?

Whatever the case, in these polarizing times, we need to judge less and listen more — in this case to the sound of pickleball.

Kathy Belicki
NOTL

Sympathy for woman affected by pickleball noise

Dear editor:

The Lake Report has provided media cheerleading for the Pickleball Club, disregarding the other side of the issue and published a ditty designed to sneer at and humiliate someone, a particular person residing in our community. I am sorry that you felt that it was suitable for this paper. I agree with the comment

made in a letter from another reader that this was a form of bullying.

I would like to voice support for the woman who suffered the injurious effects of constant noise from a small group of residents playing a game. It must have been very difficult to bear and even harder to have had to resort to legal action to obtain the right to enjoy peace in her

own home. I do not know the resident who brought the action but I felt a great deal of sympathy.

Those of us who like and need quiet are very much at a disadvantage in the noisy world we now live in. Loud, constant sound is harmful. Almost everyone enjoys a good game, but at the expense of the health and happiness of fellow beings?

There are many other active pursuits for health and joy that don't impose on one's neighbours, if there are no ways or means to play this noisy game without hurting others.

We all make moral choices and sometimes they require compromise out of respect and an awareness of justice.

Christine Earl
NOTL

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NOTL pickleball club 'not going anywhere,' president-elect says

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



Tracey Booth. SUPPLIED

The pain of having Virgil's outdoor pickleball facility closed for two years by a court order is still very raw, but the incoming president of the NOTL Pickleball Club is focused on the future, not the disappointment of the noise complaint verdict.

Tracey Booth, who was elected to the club's top job at its annual meeting on June 21, wants to ensure the club continues to grow and said she will work to find outdoor alternatives where the popular sport can be played.

"As one of the incoming board members I'm focused on what's coming next," Booth said in an interview on June 22.

"Because this club is not going anywhere. We have so many members and I'm looking forward to working with the town," said Booth, who emphasized she was speaking personally as she did not yet officially represent the club at the time of the interview.

Booth has now officially taken over as club president.

For now, pickleball play for the club's estimated 250 members is available inside the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre and on the concrete floor at the Meridian Credit Union Arena.

Pickleball is an important source of exercise for many NOTL residents and many players are unhappy with the court decision, sparked by a noise complaint by Oana Scafesi, who lives close to the Virgil courts.

In addition to the pickleball ban on the Virgil courts, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the club were each fined \$1,000.

"It's very disappointing," Lisa Vera said at the indoor pickleball courts in the Meridian arena last Wednesday.

Vera, a pickleball player and former member of the NOTL club, lives in Ste-

vensville. The only reason she didn't pay her dues this year was because the legal case.

"Niagara-on-the-Lake is one of the few cities within the Niagara region that has dedicated pickleball courts that are available for people to play for free. That's what we need," she said.

"It doesn't have to be commercialized. We need to have it inclusive and it's not inclusive enough."

The NOTL outdoor courts "got shut down because of one person," she said, but added the situation highlights how community members need to work together toward solutions that are viable for everyone.

"We're living in a world where we don't have to be so hard and fast. Let's live communally. Let's live as a

community and try and do what's best for each other."

Vera said there is a general reluctance among pickleball players to talk to the media about the verdict because of how upset they are and the worry they may say something they don't want published.

"Nobody wants to be offensive. We just want to live harmoniously."

And while the concrete floor at the arena is not ideal for pickleball play or for the human body, Vera expressed her appreciation that the town has made them available while other solutions are investigated.

"We are very, very appreciative of anybody looking towards this huge community to provide something for us, to provide a venue."

Vera stressed the signifi-

cance of having a free court to use when the cost of living and inflation are both on the rise..

"It is so important for the community. It is important for health. We have people who are seniors right down to young ones and we want the community to be involved in the sport."

But the social aspect of the club is equally, if not more, essential, she said.

"It's also so important for people's mental health. I think that is even more of a priority than the physical," she said.

Vera said the news about the pickleball shut down in NOTL travelled far and fast.

"I've had friends in Toronto and Edmonton call me because they heard about the courts and everybody's rattled."

Community centre open house highlights NOTL programming

Molly Bowron
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre held its first open house since the pandemic began on Thursday.

Dan Maksenuk, supervisor of recreation, said it was an opportunity for NOTL residents to learn about community centre programs as well as different organizations and activities offered within the community.

"We wanted to get more bodies in the building here at the community centre, so I thought one idea was an open house, to kind of get the community all in one place and (showcase) all the different programs that we have in town."

Programs and organizations highlighted included the NOTL Minor Hockey Association, NOTL Tennis Club, NOTL Skating Club, NOTL Badminton Club, German and French Conversation, Nia and more.

The programs are sponsored by a grant from makers of the Body Break Commercials, Hal Johnson and Joanne McLeod.

Along with the programs



Tennille Chwalczuk and her daughter Mia. Mia is signed up for summer camp at the community centre. MOLLY BOWRON

being showcased within the building, there was a large bouncy castle outside beside the lawn bowling area for kids to enjoy.

Among the jumping kids were Mia Chwalczuk and her Mother Tennille Chwalczuk. Mia will be attending summer camp the community centre this year and her mother is happy to have her back into programs now that COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted.

"Doing exercises such as this and being able to be with friends and back out in the public again is great," Chwalczuk said.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

Lawn Bowling Club was also part of the event.

Coach Gwynne Giles was teaching people the game and encouraging people to become new members.

"It's very social, it's a very cheap membership, the first year I think is fifty-dive dollars — not too bad."

Helping out Giles on the lawn was club president Paul McHoull.

"We're just trying to see if people are interested and introduce them to lawn bowling," he said.

To sign up for various programming at the community centre, visit notl.com or call 905-468-4386.



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6-7:30 pm - Love Construction

8-11pm - Clockwork

Friday July 22nd

4-5:30 pm - Randy Busbridge

6-7:30 pm - Kyle Lamb

8-11 pm - Vinyl Flux

Saturday July 23rd

4-5:30 pm - Matt Taylor

6-7:30 pm - Jacob D'Souza

8-11 pm - Cottage Brew

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Olivia Sinclair-Brisbane and Andrew Lawrie with members of the Shaw Company in Fairground (2021). Photo by Peter Andrew Lusztyk.

Stone mason **angry** with town's handling of gateway project

Continued from Front Page

project on budget, McLellan said in an interview on Tuesday, June 28.

After all that, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake refused to give him a deposit for materials and labour and he was forced to withdraw from the project.

The new gateway to NOTL's Old Town will sit at the top of Mississauga Street and Queen Street, right on the golf course.

"Never in my life have I ever been told (that I can't get a deposit)," McLellan said.

He's been a mason for nearly 30 years and is the only master dry stone mason in Canada.

"It just blew me away."

McLellan said he was particularly unhappy with his dealings with NOTL's manager of parks and recreation, Kevin Turcotte.

He said the town at one point suggested McLellan take out a bank loan to cover the upfront costs of the project.

"I said, 'You've got to be kidding me.'"

"I do massive projects.

Some of these homes and people I work for, I'm there for five or six years."

"I'm not a small-scale builder, I've done things for millions of dollars here. I've never been told I can't have a deposit."

During a committee of the whole meeting on June 13, Turcotte said the town had contracted Aldershot Landscape Contractors to do the work.

"Next thing I know I hear they are contacting Aldershot. Our discussions hadn't even finished," McLellan said.

During the same meeting, Turcotte said the town



Dry stone craftsman Menno Braam didn't know he was going to be building the gateway project until after his involvement was announced. SUPPLIED

had also acquired Menno Braam to do the drystone work. Braam is also a dry stone mason.

This came as news to McLellan and Braam, who have been colleagues and friends in the industry for more than 20 years.

Braam also teaches at Willowbank and the two have done drystone workshops at Red Roof Retreat in NOTL.

"He said he's never spoken to them. He called Aldershot and Aldershot still doesn't have a contract with them," said McLellan.

Braam confirmed that he had no involvement with the project when it was announced to council.

"I wracked my brain to see if I could recall ever

hearing about it or talking to any of the people involved about it but, yeah, no one had reached out," Braam said in an interview.

During the meeting, Turcotte explained that the town is allowed to single-source a project without the typical competitive bidding process if it benefits the town to do so.

This is written into section 14.2 of the town's procurement bylaw.

Chief administrator Marlene Cluckie said it is not in the best interest of the town to single-source without a competitive process often.

But she said this situation was exceptional due to the specialized nature of the dry stone work, the overall value of having Aldershot

Landscaping complete the entire project and being able to complete it on schedule.

But it seems that, without McLellan, getting the project done on the current timeline is not possible.

Braam has now been in touch with Aldershot. He said the town and Aldershot had been aiming to start the project in the fall.

But, seeing as Braam didn't know he would be involved until after town council approved the contract, he isn't available.

"I spoke with them yesterday. The last I heard is they are going to ask for more time because, of course, I didn't know about it until a few days ago," he said.

"I can't start in September because I'm already booked

well into the fall."

The town and Seferian Design Group, which created the design for the project and had been integral to the process, did not respond to questions about the timeline by our publication deadline.

Braam said he is happy to be involved in the project so long as the town and Aldershot can work with his demanding schedule.

A private, specialized craftsman just like McLellan, he also said he would not have been able to cover the deposit costs on his own.

"If I was in the same position I would have done the same thing because I can't float that kind of expense ahead of time," Braam said.

"I guess Aldershot is willing to do the work with no deposit. But they're a massive company, I can't afford to do that," said McLellan.

Being specialized tradesmen, people like Braam and McLellan do not have the deep pockets of large landscaping firms like Aldershot, he said.

The project is being funded by a \$250,000 donation by NOTL resident Gerry Kowalchuk.

McLellan was particularly disappointed that he had leveraged his good relationships with Willowbank and Upper Canada Stone to reduce costs and have premium stone donated for a project from which he has now been ostracized.

"Perry Hartwick, he owns Upper Canada Stone quarries in Madoc. I kind of leaned on him and he was willing to donate 25 tonnes," McLellan said.

"I also teach at Willowbank School of Restoration. I spoke to them and they were willing to donate

some beautiful, beautiful sculptured pieces that had come from the St. Thomas courthouse."

"So it's kind of a slap in the face to them too."

"Perry won't give them stone now and Willowbank won't because they've had a bad experience with them as well."

He couldn't give an exact number but McLellan estimated it as tens of thousands of dollars worth of material the town could have had for free that has now been lost.

He said he had spent lots of time revising his proposal in order to make it suit the town's demands.

And everything seemed like it was good to go.

"I had final pricing for them and they agreed to it, all that sort of thing. I kept my prices at the very rock bottom that I could."

"This is the frustrating part, I priced it down as far as I possibly humanly could to get away with being OK with the project and then still to be told (that I couldn't get a deposit)."

McLellan said the town paid him for one six-hour meeting, roughly \$400, but that barely accounted for all the work he had done on his own to get the project proposal ready and the myriad revisions required to bring it on budget.

The town also asked him to sign a contract that would make him responsible for all aspects of the project, from building the wall to irrigation, lighting and landscaping, McLellan said.

"I refused to do it because I don't have knowledge of that kind of stuff," he said.

The town did not respond to inquiries from The Lake Report as of deadline.


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The Canada Day fireworks at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery light up the sky in St. Davids. RICHARD HARLEY

Ravine raises \$7K for residential school survivors

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Canada Day has become a complicated time of celebration and moral reckoning.

With the continuing discovery of children's bodies buried on residential school properties across the country, more people have started to use Canada Day as an opportunity for progress and reflection as well as celebration.

This duality was well represented at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery on July 1. Chief proprietor Paul Harber organized a firework celebration for the country's birthday and a fund for residential school survivors.

"We need to do better. We have to do better," Harber said during an interview at the winery as preparations

for the evening's celebrations were well underway. "I think it's a time for Canadians to reflect on what's really important."

Ravine raised \$7,290 on Canada Day for the Indian Residential School Survivors Society. The charity is aimed at helping Indigenous people who either lived through residential schools or are dealing with intergenerational trauma caused by them.

Harber talked at length about the emotional reckoning he has had with his Canadian identity since the horrific truth of what happened at residential schools was brought to light.

"Many of us are discovering for the first time what has happened. Our hearts are aimed towards the groups that are most needed for reflection and for trying

to heal what's happened in the past."

He was conflicted about hosting a Canada Day event. "It's been really tough to even understand about doing this again — to celebrate Canada," he said.

But Harber wanted to use Canada Day as a way to reflect and make progressive action towards helping Indigenous people in Canada.

"I mean, we love Canada, we love Canada Day but what's happened over the last few years with the discovery at residential schools..." Harber trailed off.

"I have a hard time even speaking about it," a visibly emotional Harber said as tears welled in his eyes.

"I'm sorry. We have to do better."

He wanted Canadians to acknowledge the truth about the treatment of Indigenous

people in Canada and to work towards a better future.

"We need to be more educated. We have to understand our past whether it is a good or a bad story," he said.

"We have to accept it and we have to learn from it and we have to make sure it never happens again."

Harber said that being Canadian means looking out for our neighbours and that our neighbours who need us the most right now are Indigenous.

"We can only hope that we can contribute to the solution to the problem," Harber said.

Didn't get a chance to donate on Canada Day? Further donations for the Indian Residential School Survivors Society can be made at www.irsss.ca.



**Voiceless it cries,
wingless flutters,
toothless bites,
mouthless mutters.**

What is it?

(And where is this riddle from?)

Last issue: Add me to myself and multiply by four. Divide me by eight and you will have me once more. What number am I?

Answer: Any number

Answered first by: Mary Drost

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Howard Jones, Bill Hamilton, Rob Hutchison, Pam Dowling, Gordon Yanow, Doug Bruce, Wade Durling

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

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Minor softball league **knocks it out** of the sports park



NOTL Minor Softball players hit the fields on Mondays. Lake Report intern reporter Molly Bowron was there with a camera and captured these shots of kids playing a match.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Study Completion Municipal Class Environmental Assessment York Road and Four Mile Creek Road Intersection Improvements, St. Davids, Ontario

The intersection of York Road (Regional Road 81) and Four Mile Creek Road (Regional Road 100) is located in the heart of the community of St. Davids in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The intersection is currently controlled by an all-way stop, and during peak periods motorists experience delays. The skewed angle of the intersection also creates vehicle safety issues, while there is an opportunity to improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities for the intersection and vicinity.

Niagara Region, through their consultant CIMA+, has completed a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study for the subject intersection in accordance with the planning process for Schedule 'C' projects, as outlined in the Municipal Engineers Association Municipal Class Environmental Assessment document (2000, as amended in 2007, 2011, and 2015), as approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act.

An Environmental Study Report has been prepared to document the planning and decision-making process for the study. By this notice, the Environmental Study Report is being placed on the public record for a 45-calendar day public review from and including, June 30, 2022 to August 15, 2022 on the project website:

niagararegion.ca/projects/regional-road-100/default.aspx

Interested persons may provide written comments to the project contacts within the 45-calendar day review period. All comments and concerns should be sent directly to the Niagara Region project manager and consultant project manager by August 15, 2022.

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Phone: 905-695-1005, ext. 6732
phil.weber@cima.ca

Section 16 Order

In addition, a request may be made to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks for an order requiring a higher level of study (i.e., requiring an individual/comprehensive EA approval before being able to proceed), or that conditions be imposed (e.g., require further studies), only on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. Requests on other grounds will not be considered. Requests should include the requester contact information and full name for the Ministry. If no order request is received the project will proceed to design and construction as outlined in the planning documentation.

Visit the Ministry's website for more information on requests for orders under Section 16 of the Environmental Assessment Act:

ontario.ca/page/class-environmental-assessments-section-16-order

The request should be sent by August 15, 2022 in writing or by email to both the following contacts, as well as the project team contacts noted above:

Minister of the Environment Conservation and Parks
Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Director
Environmental Assessment Branch
Ministry of the Environment
Conservation and Parks
135 St. Clair Ave. W., 1st Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5
EABDirector@ontario.ca

All personal information included in your request – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, under the authority of section 30 of the Environmental Assessment Act and is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public. Personal information collected or submitted in writing will be collected, used and disclosed by members of Regional Council and Regional staff in accordance with the **Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)**. The written submissions including names, contact information and reports of the public meeting will be made available. Questions should be referred to the Privacy Office at 905-980-6000, ext. 3779 or FOI@niagararegion.ca.

This notice was first issued on June 30, 2022.

Top-seeded Thunderhawks begin **playoff round** vs. Hamilton

Andy Boldt
Special to The Lake Report

The undefeated U22 Niagara Thunderhawks completed their regular season with two more wins to thrust them into the number one seed in the Ontario Lacrosse League standings.

The Thunderhawks head into the regular season playoffs starting Friday, July 8 at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union arena versus Hamilton for the "A" division title.

The team's latest wins came against their upcoming playoff opponent the Hamilton Bengals and the Simcoe Timberwolves.

In the Hamilton game, the Thunderhawks were able to bury nine goals against the Bengals starting just a minute and a half into the first period.

Goals came from Nolan Price (1), Noah Ostromecki (1), Kris Wilson (1), Ethan Williams (1), Keaton Boldt (2) and Jordan Wiens (3).

Although the Bengals

were able to score twice, goalie Tanyan Davis had an excellent game, making some notable saves to give the offence the opportunity to keep pressure on their opponents.

The Thunderhawks then travelled to Simcoe to dominate the Timberwolves 11-2. Despite the score, the game did have some exciting accent points.

Wiens scored a hat trick, his second in as many games.

Sam Vanderzalm fought off two Timberwolves in front of his opponents' net and took an uncharacteristic behind the back shot to the delight of his cheering teammates.

The game was so one-sided that during the third period, the offensive and defensive players switched roles.

Although not totally unfamiliar to all players, most of the players over the past three to four years have had a specific role on their



The Niagara Thunderhawks play against the Hamilton Bengals on June 28. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

teams. So it was entertaining to watch some of the players navigate their new positions.

After a number of "almost" goals by the defence, Liam Gatt was able to tickle the twine with 30 seconds left to give the defensive team a

goal to call their own.

The Thunderhawks open their best-of-three playoffs versus Hamilton at home on Friday at 8 p.m.

The game will be a good warmup for their biggest test of the season versus the Milton Mavericks, an

exhibition double-header the next day.

The Thunderhawks have extended an open invitation to the community and especially to all past NOTL lacrosse players to come and support the team on Saturday at 10 a.m. and

3 p.m. during this NOTL Alumni Day.

People can meet current players, share stories from the glory days and support some of the best sports entertainment NOTL has to offer.

Andy Boldt is head coach of the U22 Thunderhawks.



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- Rhonda and John

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Hydro box beautification contest open to Niagara artists till July 18

Molly Bowron
Special to The Lake Report

Artists living and working in the Niagara Region have the opportunity to enter this year's Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro Box Beautification Competition.

This is the fourth year of the competition, organized by the Town of NOTL, the town's Communities in Bloom committee, NOTL Hydro and the NOTL Pumphouse Arts Centre.

The end result will recognize local artists and enhance three hydro boxes with their art.

All entries will be displayed at the Pumphouse from Aug. 5 to Oct. 16, with the final decisions and announcements being made for the three hydro boxes on Sept. 15.

All three of the winning submissions for this year will also be given a \$500 reward from NOTL Hydro.



A hydro box at the entrance to The Village. MOLLY BOWRON

This year's theme "is similar to previous years, landmarks and nature, but this year we are giving preference to entries that pay homage to the military history of Niagara-on-the-Lake," said Aimee Medina, marketing co-ordinator for the Pumphouse.

The three hydro boxes that were chosen for this event are located at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124, in front of the Pumphouse at Fort George and in front of the NOTL Golf Club.

New to the competition this year is a people's choice award, Medina said. "(The) third entry will be

selected by the public who visits the exhibit."

"This is such a wonderful initiative to brighten up the community," said Lord Mayor Betty Disero, in a media release.

"Our town is known for arts and culture and this competition is a great opportunity for local artists to submit their creative designs. I always look forward to seeing the unique beautification of local hydro boxes."

For artists looking to enter this contest, all submissions are due on July 18. The entry forms can be found at pumpphouseart.online/hydrobox.

Napoleonic re-enactment to take over Fort George for weekend

The Lake Report

Fort George is under seige!

This weekend Europe comes to Canada as Napoleon's army takes over Fort George National Historic Site for a Napoleonic re-enactment, filled with muskets and majesty.

Napoleonic-style French and British uniforms will fill the fort, with demonstrations and battle re-enactments happening both days.

There will be three battle re-enactments and this year actor and re-enactor Mark Schneider from 2018's Being Napoleon will embody Napoleon Bonaparte and grant visitors an "Audience with the Emperor" during a special presentation Saturday and Sunday.

Camp tours and fashion shows will also showcase the living conditions and uniforms of both French and British armies.

Here's the schedule:

Saturday

- 10 a.m. - Drill demonstration
- 11:30 a.m. - Battle re-enactment
- 1 p.m. - "Audience with the Emperor"
- 2 p.m. - Fashion and Finery Show
- 3:30 p.m. - Battle re-enactment

Sunday

- 10 a.m. - Drill demonstration
- 11 a.m. - Fashion and Finery Show
- 1 p.m. - "Audience with the Emperor"
- 2 p.m. - Battle re-enactment

Admission costs are \$16.75 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$4.25 for anyone 17 and under. For more Fort George events, visit www.pc.gc.ca.



The Emperor Napoleon in His Study at the Tuileries, by Jacques-Louis David, 1812.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS


OPEN GARDENS 2022

Saturday July 9, 10am-5pm

Free admission

Tour map and more details available at nothortsociety.com

This is a free event, but donations are gladly accepted. Entrance to individual gardens may be controlled to maintain a comfortable experience for visitors.



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Strawberry Festival Committee & Congregation Thanks You!

The 2022 Strawberry Festival Committee from St. Andrews Presbyterian Church would like to express our appreciation to the Niagara Community and Visitors for making our Festival on June 18, 2022 another successful event. It was great to be able to reach out to our Niagara Community after two very long years of isolation. We would like to make a special mention to those businesses and organizations that gave a helping hand to the Festival Committee in preparation for this important fundraising event to maintain the upkeep of the historic Church and Manse.

Thank You:

- Harvest Barn St. Catharines
- Froese Farms
- St. Davids Lions Club
- St. Vincent de Paul Church
- Van Noort Florists
- Tigchelaar Berry Farms
- Seaway Farms
- Independent Grocer Queen Street NOTL
- Simpsons Pharmacy
- Christian Assembly Hall
- Jack Custers from Your TV The Source & The Cogeco Team
- Town of Niagara on the Lake
- Region of Niagara

And all of those who so graciously donated to our Silent Auction.

- Across**
- 2. Laboratory glassware (4,5)
 - 8. Entreaty (4)
 - 9. Mesopotamia was here (4)
 - 10. Middle East expert (7)
 - 11. Useful kind of truck (4-2)
 - 12. Employs (4)
 - 14. Bombs (4)
 - 15. American vulture (6)
 - 16. Thickly curled hairdo (4)
 - 18. More mature (5)
 - 21. Bring together (5)
 - 23. Have a taste (3,2)
 - 25. Egyptian water lily (5)
 - 28. Without purpose (4)
 - 29. Kitchen feature (6)
 - 31. Great Lake (4)
 - 32. "Shane" actor (4)
 - 35. Canter round a lure for bees (6)
 - 36. Sticks like glue (7)
 - 37. Sudden assault (4)
 - 38. Rhythmic swing (4)
 - 39. Gastric (9)
- Down**
- 1. Abnormally white (6)
 - 2. Discussed (6-2)
 - 3. "Walkin' back to Happiness" singer (7)
 - 4. How critical things may come (2,1,4)
 - 5. Conveyor (7)
 - 6. If it's in place it's in this (4)
 - 7. Charge per unit (4)
 - 13. Darted (7)
 - 15. Pivotal (7)
 - 17. Not easily hoodwinked (3)
 - 19. The fifth of twelve (3)
 - 20. Flightless bird (3)
 - 22. In poor health (3)
 - 24. Attendance check (4-4)
 - 25. Pitched abruptly (7)
 - 26. Proposition demonstrated by reasoning (7)
 - 27. Registers (5,2)
 - 30. Not quite (6)
 - 33. Small cells (4)
 - 34. Shocking art movement (4)

Have some fun



Crossword Puzzle

	1		2		3		4		5		6		7	
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						36								
37												38		
							39							

Last issue's answers

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	S	G	P	E	O	T	A	P							
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	14	T	N	C							15	M	T	U	
	16	R	E	G	A	I	N	S	17	E	X	O	T	I	C
	18	E	O	W	R	Y	Z								
20	A	S	A	R	U	L	E	22	S	I	Z	A	B	L	E
	D	R	S	A								A	U	D	
24	M	A	R	C	25	I	T	I	N	E	R	A	R	Y	
	I	A	B												
26	L	O	N	G	R	U	N	30	V	I	L	N	I	U	S
	L	G	A	A											
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Nature's **brain pruning** and making sense of life as we age



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

In his 2021 book, "A Brief History of Earth," Harvard geologist Andrew Knoll wrote, "What is life, anyway? What ... differentiates us and dogs and oak trees and bacteria from mountains, volcanoes, and minerals? "On the strength of our own lives, or those of our children, we might volunteer that organisms grow. True, but so do quartz crystals. But organisms not only grow, but reproduce, making more of themselves through time. Organisms harvest energy required for growth and reproduction from their environments – a set of processes that biologists call metabolism. And critically, life evolves."

Crystals, on the other hand, grow only by adding more of the same, but none evolve into something else – only life evolves into something else.

Even the simplest of cells – bacteria and archaea – are very complex.

They make hundreds, if not thousands of different proteins, possess hundreds to thousands of genes, a complex system for generating high-energy phosphates and a fatty membrane studied with protein channels for ions and proteins. Clearly life began with something much, much simpler.

But what? Life's molecules – amino acids, phospholipids, cholesterol, sugars, RNA and DNA – are composed of differing combinations of five atoms: hydrogen, carbon, oxygen, nitrogen and phosphorus.

If in doubt, just look at the chemistry of those molecules – the same five atoms crop up, especially carbon, the matriarchal element that most readily forms bonds with the other four.

In 1953, Stanley Miller and Harold Urey combined water vapour, carbon diox-

ide, methane, ammonia and electrical discharges in an experiment meant to simulate early Earth's atmosphere and managed to produce a few amino acids.

Their prediction about the makeup of early Earth's atmosphere turned out to be wrong. Even so, they showed that combining a source of energy with some of the building blocks of life containing carbon, oxygen, hydrogen and nitrogen could produce amino acids.

Half a century later, John Sutherland and his colleagues created two nucleotides, the building blocks of RNA and DNA – under experimental conditions, which Knoll refers to as "plausible early Earth conditions."

RNA is formed from nucleotides, which in turn are composed of three molecular building blocks – bases – which can be readily made from hydrogen cyanide (HCN), sugars from precursors such as formaldehyde (CH₂O) and phosphate groups, which could have been produced by weathering of volcanic rocks.

Thus, all the building

blocks for life were probably readily available on Earth and some of them have been found on asteroids, comets and in space itself.

The building blocks of life existed early on, but which came first, the phospholipid membrane, amino acids and perhaps combinations of amino acids to form small proteins? Or was RNA first?

The answer for some scientists is RNA. Why? Because only RNA carries genetic information for forming proteins, can reproduce itself and RNA carries the all-important property of evolving in response to environmental challenges or opportunities.

And RNA is capable of other tricks, such as facilitating and speeding up chemical reactions without itself changing (enzymatic properties).

RNA is less stable than its double-stranded derivative DNA, but that may have helped life gain a foothold by increasing the chance of mutations and variants on which evolution could act to favour the development of more complex biological molecules from which life

might advance.

What probably happened many times and, in many places where life's molecular building blocks were available in abundance in a universal solvent like water, was that nucleotides formed using bases, sugar and phosphate groups.

Some nucleotides would have linked together to form short strands of RNA. And through chance, some stretches of the RNA might have acquired the ability to direct amino acids to link together to form chains and thus proteins.

And some of those proteins might have been structurally and functionally useful to the evolving nascent cell and hence selected by evolution to survive.

Copying errors would have been common with early versions of RNA, some of which might have enhanced the structure and thus function of the proteins encoded by the RNA.

But long before the form and function of the simplest of single cells was established, there must have been countless biological experiments before coming

together to form the simplest cells.

Fortunately, there was a lot of time for natural selection, acting on RNA to hone the structure, functions and interrelationships of life's molecules within single cells before those protocells began to behave much like the bacteria and archaea we know today.

And last, but hardly least, RNA could attract free bases from the environment to match its own bases, to form copies of itself.

Without this property there would have been no molecular memory to carry forward favourable copying errors on which evolution could act to enhance the function of the RNA and its molecular products.

Those fundamental principles of life would continue with the development of double-stranded DNA.

That's my imagined account of how the essentials of life came to be.

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

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EXPLORING PHOTOS
WITH NOTL MUSEUM



Diving in the Niagara River, circa 1950

This new addition to the NOTL Museum's photographic collection shows a diver near the mouth of the Niagara River in the 1950s. The apparatus on his head is known as a diving bell helmet. The diver, or perhaps one of his acquaintances, were likely exploring the shallow waters of the Niagara River. Diving helmets were often made of copper and brass or bronze. This one features a rectangular opening at the front for better observation of the river bottom. The air tube can be seen along the right side of the diver's body. What a sight that must have been for those enjoying the river that day!

Looking to the Stars

Hang in and wait, good things are coming

Thursday, July 7: Mercury is active and making things difficult as learning new ideas is often not easy. Hang in and wait a bit. Good things come to people with patience. It was July 7, 1947, that some debris and a disc were found near Roswell, New Mexico. The first UFO has since disappeared into the realm of hearsay.

Friday, July 8: Memories can be haunting this day. It's the cosmos' way of reviewing something from long ago in a spiritual search for forgiveness. Former U.S. First Lady Betty Ford died on July 8, 2011. She is currently portrayed by Michelle Pfeifer on Showtimes' "First Ladies."

Monday, July 11: Ask friends, neighbours and relatives for their help and assistance today. Enjoy your success. On July 11, 1969, David Bowie released his "Space Oddity," nine days before Apollo 11 landed on the moon. Chris Hadfield broadcast his version on May 12, 2013, live from the International Space Station.



Tuesday, July 12: Thanks to a harmony between the moon and Mars, this day before the full moon has generosity written all over it. Enjoy. Happy birthday to Malala Yousafzai, victim of Taliban violence and winner of a Nobel Peace Prize. Today, she is 25.



Saturday, July 9: In spite of a perfect harmony between the sun in Cancer and the moon in Scorpio, this is a very stressful Saturday. A head full of ideas may make for a poor night's sleep. Patience later today shows waiting can sometimes be fruitful. July 9, 1877, saw the first Wimbledon tennis tournament (men only) played on a grass surface.

Sunday, July 10: An exhilarating and exciting start to the week may get dampened a bit courtesy of overreacting to all the positive energy in the air. Once again, patience is a virtue. Who is bigger than the Beatles? As of July 10, 2018, Toronto's Drake holds that title with seven hit songs on the Billboard Hot 100.



Wednesday, July 13: A full moon in Capricorn comes with three stages set for success. 1. Memories and dreams help see how to heal old wounds. 2. Important relationships grow stronger. 3. And surprises may include new ideas to make for lots more happiness. On July 13, 1923, the famous sign on the hill was dedicated. It originally said "Hollywoodland." It was shortened to "Hollywood" in 1949.



Please check out my Podcast at www.lutts.ca for more astrological inf with ad libs, music and more.

Astrology is a form of entertainment, not a science.

Some frequently asked NOTL questions



Brian Marshall
Columnist

I recently curated a walking tour for two groups of NOTL folks interested in the town's history and built-heritage. I had identified twenty-two residences along a two kilometer route; each of which told a story about 19th Century Old Town. However, as we walked along, the questions raised by the participants added immeasurably to the quality of the tour.

Of the topics raised there were some "frequently asked" such as:

Why would the 19th Century congregation of St. Mark's invest in such a statement Rectory?

It was not uncommon in the communities of Upper Canada for a certain level of competition to exist between the various denominational congregations. Typically each denomination had two principal buildings on their property: the house of worship (church) and the rectory (or manse) which were often built during two separate time periods. Generally, a congregation would invest in making a statement through one or the other structure. In St. Mark's case, the Anglican church was



From left, Promenade House and Bernard Gray Hall.

finished between 1794 and 1804 in a classic English village form. Even after its post War of 1812 reconstruction and later cruciform expansion, the church retained its elegantly simple exterior presentation. On the other hand, the Rectory was completed in 1858 and designed in the almost flamboyant Tuscan expression of the Regency style.

As a comparison, the 1830's St. Andrew's Presbyterian church building is a massive structure, capable of seating 600 people, with all the bells and whistles of a Greek Revival design while the manse is a simple single storey cubic Regency expression, originally paid for by the minister, Rev. Robert McGill, only later becoming church property.

Why would there have been so many commercial and mixed-use (commercial/residential) buildings along 19th Century Prideaux Street?

Prior to the War of 1812, Prideaux was the Town of Niagara's "Main Street" and



only during the rebuilding did primary commercial development shift onto Queen Street. That said, Prideaux remained within the commercial buffer zone throughout most of the 19th Century as evidenced by the inns at the corner of King & Prideaux (Bernard Gray Hall) and Prideaux & Regent (Promenade House).

The nature of the street during this century also lent itself to live-work arrangements; both 28 and 69 Prideaux were residences in which the owner's (doctors) office and surgery occupied a devoted portion.

To complete the picture, a meat processing facility was located at Prideaux & Gate (Methodist Meeting Hall).

Why would stucco be used as a finish on historical masonry houses?

Let's set aside the early 20th Century prediction to cover all building surfaces with stucco as a modernization trend and go back to the 19th Century when we find structures designed to have an exterior lime-based stuc-

co finish. In NOTL, stucco applied over an uncoursed rubblestone wall field (e.g. Peter Secord House) to "dress it up" is fairly rare, while a stucco application over a "soft" brick field is much more common.

In the 19th Century, bricks were handmade and finished by firing in a beehive kiln. This process resulted in three general product grades: bricks closest to the fire were often over-exposed to heat causing a shiny blackened surface and flaws, these "clinkers" were typically discarded; first quality brick from the middle of the stacks had received the proper amount of heat to create both the strength and hardness to be weather resistant; and "soft" or "salmon" brick that, furthest from the heat, were imperfectly fired and lacked weather resistance. These salmons were cheaper than first quality brick and often used in the interior layers (wythes) of a home which were not exposed to the elements. However there were those that for budgetary reasons would construct their house with salmons and then apply a liberal coating of stucco to protect them from the weather. Often this stucco coat was incised with lines to mimic very expensive ashlar stone wall construction.



All Along the Waterfront

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All Along the
Waterfront

On: Friday, July 13, 2022
The Art of the 19th Century

Echinacea is a perennial favourite



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Gardening Columnist



Top left: Echinacea "green envy." Top right: Echinacea "knee high." Bottom left: Echinacea "marmalade." Bottom right: Echinacea "sunrise." JOANNE YOUNG PHOTOS

Coneflowers have been a longtime favourite flower in gardens of all types. The large flowers bloom abundantly throughout the summer and can thrive for years with little care.

The botanical name echinacea comes from the Greek word "echinos," meaning "hedgehog" and refers to the prickly scales at the base of the flowers.

Echinacea has always been considered a miracle plant, able to cure just about anything. Indigenous people used Echinacea to treat snakebites, burns, toothaches, colds, sore throats, headaches, mumps and tonsillitis, among others. Modern medicine could no longer ignore these claims and now echinacea tablets are available in all pharmacies and have been found to enhance the immune system and reduce the incidence of flu and colds.

It is mainly made from the root of Echinacea angustifolia. The root is prepared carefully under strict conditions, so do not attempt to eat the root of the plant straight from the garden.

The coneflower has to be one of the most popular and well-known native genus used throughout the world. There are many species of echinacea that are native here, the main three being Echinacea purpurea, Echinacea pallida and Echinacea angustifolia.

These "straight species" can be found in the marketplace, but most plants sold are "cultivars" of Echinacea purpurea. "Straight species" native plants means they have grown in a particular area or ecoregion for hundreds or even thousands of years,

are open-pollinated and grow true to seed.

"Cultivars" are the result of selective breeding by humans. We often refer to cultivars of native species as "nativars." So how can you tell if what you are buying is the straight species or a cultivar?

When shopping for plants, the name tags will usually include the botanical name. With botanical names it always reads the same – genus species "Cultivar." For example, the straight species of Purple Coneflower will be Echinacea purpurea. If it is a cultivar, it will be followed by a third name in quotations such as Echinacea purpurea "Magnus."

There is a real need for people to be planting native species for attracting pollinators. Even introducing a few native species into your garden can make a difference and if everyone did this, it could have a large impact.

There is one camp of people that says that you should plant true straight species only. The other camp says some nativars do the same job as the straight species do.

So, whether you are a truist with your plant selections or whether nativars are acceptable, you can still be doing your part.

With coneflowers, the cultivars that resemble the straight species the closest will still attract bees and butterflies and other pollinators, providing them with nectar, and produce seed heads that will also be a food source for songbirds.

The best cultivars are single-flowering varieties. We know that hybrid echinaceas with double and triple blooms are useless to pollinators because the extra petals block nectar and pollen. However, preliminary studies on the subject suggest some single-flowered cultivars are as attractive to pollinators as their parent plants.

Not only are coneflowers native and attract pollinators, but there are other reasons to grow them. There are many cultivars available, with new varieties coming out every year. They are now available in many colours in shades of purples, pinks, white, yellows, oranges through to reds.

The striking, large, showy flowers provide a splash of colour in any garden and are long-blooming – starting in late June or early July and continuing throughout the summer.

They also come in all different heights from dwarf to three to four feet tall. Coneflowers love a sunny spot with a minimum of four hours of sun or more. Because of their deep root systems, they are drought-tolerant once established.

They do not tolerate a wet soil and there are very few disease or insect problems with coneflowers. Dead-heading the first flowers of the season when finished, will encourage more blooms to form.

It is an easy-care plant that will provide you with lots of summer colour while attracting pollinators and birds. Definitely one to be adding to your garden. Check out all the varieties of echinacea at your local garden centre.

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



A bench at Simcoe Park honours Terry Fox. MOLLY BOWRON

NOTL declares July 12 Terry Fox Day in town

Molly Bowron
Special to The Lake Report

Forty-two years ago, Terry Fox ran through Niagara-on-the-Lake and was honoured at a reception of the Prince of Wales Hotel.

Now, in honour of his visit, Lord Mayor Betty Disero has proclaimed July 12 as Terry Fox Day in NOTL.

To commemorate the first Terry Fox Day, Disero will be raising the Canadian flag at the old Court House on Queen Street at 9 a.m. New 2022 Terry Fox T-shirts will also be sold by Joan King, who organizes the annual Terry Fox Run in NOTL.

A plaque has already been placed on a park bench

entering Simcoe Park, in honour of Fox and will also be officially unveiled.

A plaque has also been placed on a bench within Simcoe park, which will be officially revealed on July 12.

King said it will be "dedicated in honour of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope, from 1980."

"This is a special day for Niagara-on-the-Lake. It's not a run day. It's just to recognize that Terry Fox actually was in Niagara-on-the-Lake 42 years ago," she said.

King said she's already gearing up for the annual Terry Fox Run in NOTL on Sept. 18 and is excited to get back to a regular year without pandemic restrictions.






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NEW TO MARKET 9 Blackbird Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake
This charming property situated in The Village has been restyled from head to toe. This distinctive residence features a spacious Living Room and combination Kitchen and Dining Room. The sheer scale of the landscaped deck off the Kitchen makes it a wonderful oasis of tranquility.

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