



Rainbow crosswalk urged



Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Jordon Williams kneels at the crosswalk on the corner of King and Queen streets, where he's hoping the town will install a rainbow crosswalk to celebrate members of the LGBTQ+ community. RICHARD HARLEY

Stephanie Beattie
Special to The Lake Report

Pride needs to be celebrated beyond the month of June in Niagara-on-the-Lake with more education and visual representation – like a rainbow crosswalk, LGBTQ+ community members say.

Jordon Williams, president of Lahava Media, a travel and lifestyle company

for the LGBTQ+ community, first broached the idea on social media in May, urging the town to install a Pride crosswalk in the heart of Old Town.

Williams suggests putting a Pride walk “right by the Prince of Wales,” at Queen and King streets.

The NOTL resident said a multicolored Pride crosswalk goes beyond the LGBTQ+ community,

representing Indigenous and other marginalized groups as well.

“We need the Pride walk, but we also need the town to partner up with businesses and organizations to promote LGBTQ+ equality, rights, economics and tourism,” added Williams, who openly identifies with the LGBTQ+ community.

With the anniversary of the Stonewall riots on June

28, Williams said even just a temporary Pride walk for the weekend would be an important start.

The 1969 riots erupted after police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York City and the uprising is seen by many as the beginning of Pride movement.

“It’s honouring the past

Continued on Page 2



A house in St. Davids was raided by police last Wednesday. Neighbours said they heard gun shots disrupting the normally quiet neighbourhood. EVAN SAUNDERS

Anxious neighbours watch as police raid St. Davids home

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The sounds of gunshots, barking dogs, and smoke and stun grenades disrupted a quiet St. Davids neighbourhood as police raided a home and arrested two people on drug trafficking and gun charges last week.

Niagara Regional Police conducted the late-evening bust at 65 Kenmir Ave. on June 8 following a guns and gangs investigation that began in early 2021, investigators said.

Officers said one of the suspects fired at officers after they burst into the house. Police said they found fentanyl, one handgun and more than \$80,000 in cash in the house.

Police refused to release the address of the home, but it was confirmed by people who witnessed the take-down.

The home was being rented, said neighbours, who watched the scene unfold from their bedroom windows.

“I heard this really loud sound. They sounded like fireworks but there were a lot of them,” nearby resident Ash told The Lake Report.

“But then I heard yelling and dogs barking. Then I started looking and there was like a whole bunch of cops running around,” Ash said.

According to another witness, there were about seven

Continued on Page 3

Coyote attacks blamed on easy access to food

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A coyote expert says culling is ineffective, but preventive measures – like sealing garbage cans – are essential to curb coyote aggression, something the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake says it is already doing.

A farm worker was bitten Friday night on a grape farm near Virgil, adding another violent example to the increasing incidents of

coyotes being reported in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Jamie Slingerland said an employee on his company’s farm was bitten while sitting on his porch around 8 p.m. on Friday, June 8. The coyote approached the worker and bit him twice on the leg before running off.

The employee has since been treated for rabies and is recovering well.

The town has launched a coyote sighting form for residents to help the town track the animals’ locations. To access the form and the

town’s resource page on coyote safety go to www.notl.org/coyotes.

Slingerland said he has lived in NOTL for 60 years and has never heard of coyotes attacking or chasing individuals before.

Dr. Simon Gadbois, who studies canid psychology and behaviour at Dalhousie University in Halifax, said when coyotes grow comfortable around people “it’s almost always the same reasons and it has a lot to do with food.”

That means “either direct

feeding or indirect feeding,” he said in an interview.

Direct feeding is when people leave out food or toss scraps to hungry coyotes. But indirect feeding is a more serious issue because it is more prevalent, Gadbois said.

It could be “something as simple as having an apple tree on your property. Apples fall down and you’re not picking them up.”

For years, Gadbois has been working with govern-

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Residents criticize plans for Rand development

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A subdivision proposed on the historic Rand Estate drew heated comments and pointed questions from residents during a virtual open house Tuesday night.

Concerns over Solmar (Niagara 2) Inc.’s proposed number of housing units, destruction of woodlands, environmental changes and

protection of heritage features dominated the three and a half hour meeting.

Paul Lowes of SGL Planning and Design and members of his team represented developer Benny Marotta, whose company has proposed development of a tightly packed subdivision on the Rand Estate.

One of the main concerns of residents was the incompatibility of the plan with

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Rainbow crosswalk proposed for Queen Street

Continued from Front Page

and it's also showing the world that we're progressive, welcoming and inwardly we're showing kids, LGBTQ+ youth that are mentally at risk, that you're of value, you're of worth," the NOTL resident said.

"We know, in the community, where we're wanted and if you go out of your way to do that in Old Town ... wow, what a statement," he added.

The town's inclusivity committee has endorsed the idea, recommending that the Pride walk be installed in 2022 after consultation with the town's heritage committee and the Chamber of Commerce.

It also suggests the town paint park benches in rainbow colours in each community outside of Old Town. Both recommendations go to town council next Monday.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she thinks "the concept of a rainbow sidewalk is wonderful and would help to demonstrate our town's commitment to celebrating diversity and help to foster a safe and inclusive community."

She deferred to town staff "for their expertise as to whether a temporary sidewalk is feasible at this time but certainly look forward to the ongoing discussion about a potential rainbow sidewalk in Niagara-on-the-Lake."

An online survey on diversity and inclusion earlier this year by the town's inclusivity committee showed 48.3 per cent of respondents believe NOTL is neither diverse nor inclusive.

Out of 173 participants, 97.6 per cent of people said they believe NOTL will benefit from increased diversity and inclusion.

When asked about racial and ethnic background, 147 people said they were of white, European descent.

Williams said the majority of the survey's respondents are not representative of the LGBTQ+ community or people of colour.

However, all the people who took the time to fill out the survey are still appreciated because "we need



Top: Niagara College students help paint a rainbow crosswalk at the school in 2019. FILE Left: Tony Hendriks, owner of Hendriks' Valu-mart, has a Pride Month blackboard to celebrate diversity. Right: Scottish Loft owner Simon Bentall is supportive of a rainbow crosswalk on Queen Street. RICHARD HARLEY PHOTOS

those allies," he added.

Darryl Dyball, Positive Living Niagara's community development and education co-ordinator, sees the crosswalk and the flag as "opportunities for conversation."

"It shows people that beacon of hope, that you know, the community is here, and it creates a presence having the flag and the crosswalk," Dyball said.

"It's all about continuing the education and people wanting to learn about the community," he said.

Dyball said he works specifically with people living with AIDS and HIV in the Niagara Region with a focus on education and outreach.

"We're not just allies standing there with a flag once a year through the month of June. We are there on the front lines with the community because we will support them every step of the way," Dyball, 37, said in a phone interview.

He also said NOTL is putting the proper steps

and policies in place like raising the annual Pride flag to show acceptance and progressiveness toward LGBTQ+ tourists and residents.

Dyball, who also works as the intake person and educator for the PrEP Clinic in the Niagara Falls Community Health Centre, was at the raising of the Pride flag at NOTL's town hall on June 1.

"Having the Pride Flag raised in all 12 municipalities, but specifically in Niagara-on-the-Lake, just shows that people can actually plant their roots here," he said.

"When people come to visit Niagara-on-the-Lake as a tourist destination, they're not just seeing a one-stop-shop – this community actually embraces everyone," the Thorold resident said.

Dyball said he feels comfortable in NOTL as a confidently out, gay man but it might be more difficult for younger people still in the closet.

Even small efforts like hotels asking for people's preferred pronouns could help with diversity and inclusivity, Dyball said.

He also said it's important for people to want to learn more about the LGBTQ+ community and the need to continue celebrating Pride and creating awareness.

"The library is so progressive there. They have LGBT books for the kids," he added.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library posted on Twitter promoting books in support of Pride Month on June 4.

"Our collection strives to reflect the issues, interests and people included in the sexual and gender diverse community," said Sarah Bowers, the technical service co-ordinator at the library.

"We also prioritize purchasing books written by LGBTQ+ authors when the subject matter deals with the LGBTQ+ community," she said.

"The library has also re-

ceived grant funding to hire a student who will be helping us complete a diversity audit on our collection this summer," she added.

"When members of a marginalized group can identify with or see themselves reflected in books and media materials, it reinforces the truth that they are seen, that their experiences are entirely valid and inherently valuable," Bowers said.

Bowers has worked in NOTL for seven years and said the library is a space that fosters inclusion, safety and empowerment for the sexual and gender diverse community.

"Last month our virtual author talk event welcomed Andrea Bennett, a Canadian author who recently wrote a lovely book of essays that explores navigating the gender binary and gendered expectations, titled 'Like a Boy but Not a Boy,'" Bowers said in an email.

"We also launched a program earlier this year, in partnership with

the Niagara Falls Public Library and the Niagara Community Health Centre, called Rainbow Kids' Reading Club, which was six-week series of books to spark discussion on gender diversity and being yourself for children aged six to 10," she added.

Bowers also said these efforts can connect people through their "shared humanity."

"This is where visible acts of inclusion like flags and rainbow crosswalks are a great starting point. Not only does it send the message that the municipality supports folks in the LGBTQ+ community, but it also insists upon and celebrates that community's visibility," Bowers said.

Simon Bentall, owner of the Scottish Loft on Queen Street, emphasizes,

"We welcome everybody." A lot of LGBTQ+ community members come into his store because they "feel safe" there, he said.

Bentall also said he likes the idea of window stickers welcoming LGBTQ+ community members and would put one on his storefront window with "no problem."

Some stores in NOTL already display window rainbow stickers.

Tony Hendriks, owner of Hendriks' Valu-mart on Queen Street, said his store has smaller permanent decals on its windows in support of the community, and a larger sign for the month of June.

"We have also a sign in our vestibule remembering Pride Month and National Indigenous History Month," he added.

The signs and stickers have been a "subtle welcoming," Hendriks said in a phone interview.

Hendriks also said he would love to see a Pride crosswalk in Old Town.

"I've seen it in other cities and I think it's a great idea," he added.

"These are all kind of symbols or steps that communities can take, that people can take to just show, outwardly, that they love and support everyone and they want everyone to feel welcomed and included," Hendriks said.



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What's in the stars? New horoscope column debuts



Bill Auchterlonie. SUPPLIED

Staff
 The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Bill Auchterlonie has been studying the stars for more than 40 years and this week his astrology column debuts in The Lake Report.

Though not considered a science, astrology is entertaining and his column promises humour and insights into the week ahead.

"To me, it's like a language with archetypal imagery that matches psy-

chology and coincidence," he says.

A retired radio broadcaster, Auchterlonie has a fine arts film degree and has been active in the arts community for many years. He also is a regular contributor to Arabella, an art and design magazine.

"My interest in astrology began when I was in university, studying ancient religious sites like Stonehenge, the pyramids in Egypt, and north and central American earthworks, which were all

astronomically inspired," he says.

Paranormal expert Allen Spraggett was regular guest on Auchterlonie's talk show.

"He is also a student of astrology and explained that my surviving a hit-and-run accident in 1980 was related to my nearly drowning at age four. I had no knowledge of this. He said, 'Ask your mom.'"

"When she confirmed this fact, I was hooked."

You can find Auchterlonie's column on page 18.

Fentanyl, \$84,000 cash, gun seized in St. Davids house raid, drug bust

Continued from Front Page

police cruisers, several unmarked cars and a large unmarked van outside the residence.

While police said two NOTL men were charged, witnesses said they saw other people detained.

"I saw one of the ladies getting arrested on the balcony as well. She was on the ground (an officer) was tying her up," said Ash.

The fireworks Ash heard turned out to be an array of noises from officers as they conducted the raid.

"I don't know if it was the gunshot or them breaking the door down. I know they used a bunch of smoke grenades and stun grenades," he said.

Residents saw flashing white lights from inside the house as the raid went on.

On Friday, three days after the raid, a shattered toilet lay in pieces on the front lawn. Neighbours said the suspects tried to flush evidence when the raid started.

Neighbours said most of the police cars were gone within an hour of the bust



A shattered toilet sits on the lawn of the home raided by police. Neighbours said the suspects tried to flush illegal drugs when police raided. EVAN SAUNDERS

but some stayed until at least 5:30 the next morning.

The rental property had been on the market, "but maybe he was not getting the right price. Once I saw these people and I asked them where they were from. They said they moved from Toronto," said a neighbour who asked that their name not be published.

"They were only there every once in a while. But I saw a Rolls-Royce, Mercedes and Bentleys outside. So, we were a little suspicious. We thought something was going on."

Officers, including a team

from Niagara's emergency task unit, said they seized a handgun and more than 200 grams of fentanyl, with a street value of over \$61,000. As well, \$84,000 in cash was found, police said.

Mashie Harper, 28, and Pietre Cleghorn, 34, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, face several charges including possession of a schedule 1 drug intended for trafficking (fentanyl), discharging an illegal firearm (allegedly at officers) and possession of over \$84,000 in crime-related cash, according to a Niagara Regional Police news release.

Detectives also searched a St. Catharines home and arrested a third person. A warrant was issued for the arrest of a fourth person, Rohan Chand, 34.

Officers seized 44 grams of fentanyl there with a street value of about \$13,000. Chand is charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking.

A warrant was issued for another suspect, David McComb, 27, of St. Catharines.

In September 2019, a drive-by shooting targeted another house on Kenmir Avenue.

Fentanyl is an extremely powerful and deadly pain reliever used in hospital settings.

A study published in November 2020 by Public Health Ontario focusing on opiate-related deaths during the pandemic said fentanyl was tied to 87.2 per cent of the 617 overdose deaths studied, making it by far the most deadly street drug in Ontario.

It is 20 to 40 times more potent than heroin, according to the federal government.

NOTL's COVID cases mainly from household spread: Hirji

Niagara's chief medical officer of health says most cases of COVID-19 in Niagara-on-the-Lake are coming from community spread, mainly because of gatherings.

Dr. Mustafa Hirji said

looking at NOTL cases in past weeks, the main trend is spread within households.

"An initial case brings infection to the home, which then spreads to one to three other members of the household. Over 80 per cent

of NOTL cases have been part of households with multiple cases," he said.

"Several persons have spread COVID-19 after social gatherings with friends. That has spread infection between households, spark-

ing the pattern above."

NOTL active cases have increased to 17 from 15 over the last few weeks, as cases continue to come down in the rest of the region and across the province.

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Canada

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COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases: 17
Region active cases: 293
Region deaths: 411
Region total cases: 16,085
Region resolved cases: 15,381

*June 16 data per Niagara Region Public Health



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"People come and go in your life, but the right ones will always stay." - Patty Garriock

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Editorial: Make Pride crosswalk happen

Richard Harley
 Editor-In-Chief

Niagara-on-the-Lake is ahead of the curve in so many ways.

And so behind in others.

This week's story about resident Jordon Williams' efforts to get a rainbow crosswalk installed at the intersection of King and Queen streets is a perfect example of a way that our little "progressive," "friendly" town is behind the times.

Niagara-on-the-Lake is one of the last municipalities in the region to consider a rainbow crosswalk. But, as often happens, the town is enveloping the idea in red tape.

Williams rightly expects that the town will eventually agree to the crosswalk. After all, it's the bare minimum it can do as a welcoming, inclusive gesture to the LGBTQ+ community — both residents and visitors.

The inclusivity committee has recommended it — for 2022, pending input from the heritage committee and Chamber of Commerce. But why wait a year, when all it really takes is laying down some paint? (OK, special



Niagara College managed to install a rainbow crosswalk in one day in 2019. FILE PHOTO

paint, maybe. But getting the specs from others who have done it is pretty simple.) Why the bureaucracy?

When it meets on Monday, our town council — and the town administration — should move this kind, caring and inclusive idea forward to see it done before the end of Pride month. This June. Now.

It's entirely doable, as Lord Mayor Betty Disero proved recently by cutting through the red tape around new stop signs in the Village subdivision and just getting it done.

Our town council needs to push to make this symbolic gesture a reality now. Show the world how quickly you can make it so.

Even if the heritage committee and Chamber by rights should have input, let's just do it — and, as with the Village stop signs, sort out the finer details later.

The world has awakened to the countless atrocities committed in the name of a colonial attitude. To send the idea to the heritage committee weeks after the discovery of 215 bodies of Indigenous children at a residential school established by a colonial government, is unfortunately tone deaf. Instead, bypass the processes and make real, positive change.

A Pride crosswalk is an easy way to say to everyone that the town doesn't just accept LGBTQ+ community members, but

embraces them.

In a way, it's a symbol of love for every person on the planet.

As Williams noted, symbols matter. They matter to the trans folks who have alarmingly high suicide rates. They matter to the gay children growing up in conservative, religious and narrow-minded households, who might not realize that the rest of the world is growing up.

Don't delay the gesture. The town is trying to brand itself as an organization that cares about diversity. So, let's play catch up and get it done.

Councillors, let's get some paint on the road. It costs next to nothing and it's the right thing to do.

And if all that isn't enough reason for some people, consider the fact that it's also a great marketing tool for the town — one that is host to a vibrant theatre community and home to many people who deserve to feel proud of being LGBTQ+.

To again quote Williams, "This would be a big step, not the only thing, but a great step forward."

editor@niagaranow.com



Seeds of blame, fear being planted ahead of election

Dear editor:

Our political leaders are busy fundraising for upcoming provincial and federal elections.

Be aware that the seeds of blame, shame, anger and fear are being prepared for planting. These seeds have taken root in the United States and have left that country unable to bridge the chasms dividing the electorate.

Congress cannot even agree to form a committee to investigate the Jan. 6 mob attack on the Capitol.

What will the congressional meat grinder, aka the legislature of the United States of America, do to

President Joe Biden's ambitious agenda? This is the bitter harvest of demagoguery.

We have learned to our shock, shame and dismay that Canada is not the racist-free zone that some of us have long proclaimed it to be.

Let us not, then, take for granted that we can escape the crippling consequences of demagoguery.

At least one political party in Canada is preparing to take us down that road. It is looking for a firm that can appeal to emotion over reason, innuendo over fact, duplicity over integrity.

One firm advertises itself

as follows. "A social media firehose of attention-grabbing, emotion-manipulating, behaviour-nudging messaging designed to corral the faithful and to convert the fence sitters," (Susan Delacourt, The Toronto Star, May 28, A5)

Tactics such as these strike at the heart of the democratic process. They make a mockery of elections.

All this is done under the protection of free speech. One freedom used to compromise others, unless we refuse to be manipulated.

What do such methods reveal about the people who would stoop to their use?

Surely we can conclude that such scoundrels have no place in our legislatures. I am reminded of a line by Geoffrey Chaucer in the Canterbury Tales: a shitten shepherd and cleane sheep.

The last Ontario and federal elections were sorry affairs full of personal attacks. Our prime minister in a national televised debate was called a liar and a fraud, among other slurs. Kathleen Wynne fared no better.

Let's punish any party that puts winning ahead of integrity, of democracy, and of a Canada to be proud of.

David Lailey
 NOTL



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OPINION

Indigenous children **won't** be forgotten

The following originally appeared in the NOTL Chamber of Commerce's newsletter last week.



Eduardo Lafforgue
Special to The Lake Report

When I heard the news that an innocent family was killed in London, Ont., just because of their religion, I thought: this cannot be the country that we all love and cherish. Let's pray for the nine-year-old boy who survived. His family arrived from Pakistan years ago hoping for a better life and he is now an orphan.

I wrote this message below for myself, to alleviate the sorrow I felt when I read about the children who never returned home from the Kamloops Indian Residential School and those who survived trauma from the residential school system.

Now I feel like sharing it in memoriam.

215 unsharpened pencils

Canada, one of the most civilized countries in the world, where we coexist as harmoniously as possible, people who were born in 170 different countries, where respect for human rights is the only thing that not even politicians dare to touch and is part of modern Canada, these weeks faced its colonial past.

From the end of the 19th century, the federal government with the help of the Roman Catholic and other churches created a system of residential schools to integrate the children of the First Nations into the Canadian-European culture, product of the arrival of settlers from the British Isles, France, northern Europe and other white countries.

This meant that children, in some cases as young as three, were uprooted from their homes and re-educated away from their parents, whom they saw once a year or never again.

It is one of the saddest and bleakest chapters in Canadian history that few were aware of until the 1970s, when the last of the more than 130 residential schools closed for good.

Little by little more and more details were revealed, and it continues to come to light how children of the 634 First Nations who spoke 50 different languages were re-educated, often in egregious conditions of violence, sadism and ongoing abuse.

This not only caused enormous pain to all those families but also created a sociocultural vacuum and identity confusion so great that they are largely the cause of the problems many members of the First Nations have to this day.

For 215 hours, the flags across the country were flown at half-mast; Google put a black ribbon on the Canadian home page of its online search engine.

Only a few weeks ago and despite the fact that members of the community of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nations in British Columbia have been demanding an investigation for 50 years, a mass grave was discovered next to the former Kamloops residential school thanks to the use of deep radar technology.

The unique temperate climate of this region of western Canada favours the development of lush gardens. There, under a huge oak tree, the bodies of 215 boys and girls, some as young as three years old, lie piled up like nameless remains.

The collective horror is not enough to alleviate the pain of all those people who always knew that somewhere in the gardens of that school were their ancestors. This was just one of the more than 130 residential schools. How many more graves will there be?

Spontaneous tributes and improvised offerings appeared in front of the old buildings of those schools. People of all kinds started leaving baby shoes, teddy bears and other toys.

Someone left a pencil sharpener and a pencil case: 215 pencils were never sharpened again, 215 boys and girls stopped learning to be Canadian.

They stopped writing in their notebooks and using their pencil sharpeners many, many years ago, although not enough for us to forget about them.

May they rest in peace in the garden of spirits.

Eduardo Lafforgue is president of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce.

Underground political group has **the right idea**

Dear editor:

With regards to Samuel Young's hypothesis of a secret society preparing to take over town council by some nefarious political activity (letter, "Underground group aims to unseat town council," June 10), please sign me up as a member.

I cannot remember the last time a candidate came

to my door, received a political brochure from a candidate for any office, whether municipal, provincial or federal – this is shameful on the part of candidates.

It would appear that candidates rely solely on "interest" pieces in our local newspapers during the election, which is the only information received by

constituents.

The fact that Mr. Young naively contests the involvement of local associations to inform their members and at times support candidates is concerning.

After all, do you think the incumbent members of council did not have support of one group or another to support them during the last

election?

Mr. Young shouldn't concern himself with the political activities of new residents from Toronto, as history shows, they won't know who to support or what candidates stand for, unless they read it in the newspaper.

Derek Insley
NOTL

Agree with **criticism** of NOTL gateway proposal

Dear editor:

I am in agreement with Peter Babcock's criticism of the proposed gateway at Queen and Mississagua streets (letter, "Proposed gateway is ugly and corporate-looking," June 10).

Why put up a 40-foot masonry wall with the name Niagara-on-the-Lake on

it? Surely visitors will have known what town they were in since they crossed its border 20 kilometres previously on Highway 55.

And why erect a 25-foot high obelisk representing the lighthouse at Mississauga Point when there are two historic lighthouses on the Niagara River?

I do agree with the proposed three-way stop signs at the intersection. The amount of time I have spent waiting on the Queen Street sidewalk to cross Mississagua, as a steady stream of vehicles coming from the direction of "downtown" turned left, is incalculable.

Surely the money allocated to improve this intersection could be better used by placing a 40-foot long garden of flowering shrubs at the end of Mississagua Street rather than building the currently proposed "gateway."

Elizabeth Masson
NOTL

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For town and developers, it's **all about money**

Dear editor:
Another meeting regarding yet another property development. From the point of view of both apparent protagonists – the town and the developer – discussion and questioning will be about aesthetics, design and layout.

However, this chartered accountant recognizes that for both parties, it's all about money.

For the developer, the more dwellings he can jam into a single piece of land, the lower his land costs per unit and the more money that can be made. And one of the developer's worst fears is extended delays. There are financing costs and taxes to be paid, the uncertainty of material costs and the health of the housing market when the project can finally go on the market. Forget about the window-dressing of consultations and concessions – it's all about money.

From the municipality's point of view, there are major financial influences, too. First, there are development charges. These are fees levied by the municipality on each approved dwelling unit. In the case of Niagara-on-the-Lake, an online search shows development charges are \$10,503 for each single and

semi-detached dwelling, and \$8,618 for each unit that is a different multiple.

So, for the proposed 125 detached units at over \$10,000 each, the municipality receives, up front, over \$1,125,000 while the other units bring in close to \$600,000. And more property taxes will come later when the units are built and sold.

So, our municipality gets a really nice payment of more than \$1,725,000 for the development now under discussion. Not bad for doing nothing but approving a developer's draft plan of subdivision. It certainly helps the town's budget. So once again it's all about money.

Given that both "sides" seem to have the same objective, what can we look for as yet another chunk of open land disappears? Once the developer has sold the project and moved on, they are out of the picture. The municipality, however, can face ongoing issues.

We have read about residents in recent development projects having to apologize to their visitors because they have been ticketed for on-street parking. Take a look at some of the units near the former Sentineal property on Anne Street. A few of the driveways are not long

enough even for the resident to park their car.

No one at the town apparently had looked to see whether the individual units wedged onto the lots actually have space for real drive-ways. Shame!

But then, longer driveways would mean fewer units. Some older developments have provided off-street parking spaces that might otherwise have been able to fit in a couple of more houses. Good for them but that doesn't seem to be the expectations of the town today – it's all about money.

Toronto had a fire more than 100 years ago and it spread blazingly fast through attached dwellings. Rules now impose stringent fire-resistant standards between attached dwellings. Increasingly we have rows of attached dwellings in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

We inquired when we came to town several years ago about demising standards here in town and were assured by a town employee that there should be noise-proofing. Hello! Have you heard of cement block demising walls, extending all the way to the roofline? This town hadn't. Pretty expensive for a developer, though. It's all about money.

The application submitted to the town shows a total of 0.89 hectares for parks and open spaces. Out of a total of 12.34 Hectares, that's about 7 per cent. Sure, the Commons is nearby, but that's not the point. Within the development, that's a small amount of space to serve 191 unit-owners and their families.

They had better not try to enjoy it at the same time. Or perhaps they could set up a booking and scheduling system. Yes, I know ... it's all about money.

Finally, how about some really innovative elements for development in the town? Like a plan that provides charging points in each garage so owners can charge the electric cars that loom in our future?

And perhaps something that other municipalities require – an element of affordable housing in the project? The term "affordable housing" is somewhat of an oxymoron in Old Town.

But rather than nodding our heads in quiet acquiescence, perhaps we should try to do something to address the issue. That probably won't happen. After all, it's all about money.

John Sayers
NOTL

Indigenous tragedy needs full **criminal** investigation

Dear editor:
I completely agree with your editorial concerning the horrific Kamloops, B.C., tragedy, "Church shuns its responsibility," June 3.

I am appalled and enraged at the awful and disgusting findings, which may well be repeated at other locations through future investigations. In my opinion they should all be considered criminal investigations.

Even though some knowledge of these events has existed with the authorities over a long period of time, the Catholic church and federal government have a great deal to answer for in this murderous campaign to harm and destroy the weakest members of our Indigenous community. And this does not lessen the criminal nature of these events in any way.

This is an unbelievable criminal act of abuse and murder perpetrated on these poor, unfortunate Indigenous children, and an empty apology from the Catholic church (including that of the Pope) and a federal government offer of compensation and another apology is not good enough or sufficient.

Only a full criminal investigation by the police authorities identifying all the facts, including causes of death, as well as the perpetrators responsible for this, and laying charges, if any are possible, will bring any sense of justice or closure to those Indigenous people who are suffering because of this deliberate tragedy.

I am disgusted with the people responsible. Who would think that those who profess to uphold Christian values could be responsible for such outrageous criminal acts?

Derek Collins
NOTL

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Town needs to **rename** Ryerson Park

Ross Robinson
Special to The Lake Report



Ryerson Park needs a new name, says columnist Ross Robinson. RICHARD HARLEY

Let's think about tomorrows in our unique Niagara-on-the-Lake.

George Santayana said in 1905, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Lately, I have been consumed by the issue of statue, building and park naming. Sir John A. Macdonald. Robert E. Lee. Egerton Ryerson.

We now realize that naming statues to honour individuals is fraught with potential problems, as new history comes to light. Indian residential schools, slavery, Japanese Internment, Islamophobia and other unfair and horrible events are part of Canada's history.

Celebrity and sports star marketing can go south too, shattering dreams and marketing plans.

In NOTL right now, we have a unique opportunity to set an example for the world. For some emotional, historical and tragic reasons, stars have aligned and our wee town should seize the chance to show others how this process can unfold.

Happily, we have proof statements nearby, with the Landscape of Nations at Queenston Heights and the Voices of Freedom Memorial in Old Town. The unspeakable, hor-

rible confirmation at the Kamloops Indian Residential School and the obscene act of terrorism against a Muslim family last week in London remind us, we have "dark chapters" in our national history books.

We must educate ourselves that the residential school system and systemic racism and white privilege have been part of the development of Canada. When we see our proud Canadian flags at half-mast, we are so saddened. We must all resolve to be better, kinder people.

Last Sunday, former U.S. president Barack Obama said, approximately, "We can be proud of our country and its achievements, while still recognizing the mistakes and horrible things that happened."

Indeed, we must learn from our mistakes,

and commit to teaching our children the facts. As new facts are learned, the teaching must change too.

Today, young Canadians are more apt to "call out" racist comments and bad behaviour. This is good and we experienced people must learn from them.

Mass media and social media are so powerful now. Our thoughts are influenced and, due to confirmational thought filtering, we find ourselves increasingly polarized and unwilling to respect the thoughts of others. That being said, Peter C. Newman once wrote, "you can't stage a Holocaust while CNN is watching."

Ruth Abernethy, who created the Macdonald statues in Picton and Baden, Ont., said after the figures were removed, "This is disappointing, but also a sign

that history is always in motion."

Way back in 1997, I worked closely with town staff (Clive Buist and Ewald Kuczera) to protect the shoreline of Ryerson Park. We never gave the park's name a thought. Even five months ago, the idea of having to rename this special park was rebuffed. So here we are.

I participated in a town inclusivity committee focus group last week. Congrats to facilitator George Webber for quarterbacking a very useful meeting. Twelve very diverse personalities showed respect and kindness, and the goal is action, soon.

Perhaps kindness should be the overarching word we all remember, as we create Canada's history. Carpe diem.

A **common goal** on bigotry and racism

Dear editor:

I write, reluctantly, in response to Joey Ho's letter in your June 3 edition, "Erasing racism dismisses pain, inequities of racialized people," reacting to my letter the week before, "Let tolerance and harmony reign."

I am not particularly surprised by her reaction, but still disappointed. We share a common objective, the ultimate end to "racism" ("bigotry/ignorance," as I termed it) in all its forms.

Ms. Ho agrees that there is only one, universal, human "race" and no basis for any other "race" categorizations.

I did not and would not dismiss the many manifes-

tations and consequences of racism that exist, like those catalogued in Ms. Ho's letter. I acknowledged these in my letter, "our definite, persisting national failures, flaws and imperfections."

I recognized that an end to racism will not happen quickly, nor easily, "...regrettably, I will not hold my breath ..." A lot of dialogue, reconciliation, change, effort, struggle will be required for a long time.

To me, "dismissing" one's allies/supporters in a common cause more or less as unconscious abettors of racism is not a positive approach toward achieving our shared goal; hence, my disappointment.

Differences between our views are about semantics only, not substance or essence. I do consider myself colourblind: i.e. race, skin colour (including green with purple stripes) and other stereotypes, do not matter to me in dealing with individuals, and I have lived in Canada, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

That colourblindness does not equate to being blind to racism. I attended the Black Lives Matter rally at which Sue Batson Patterson spoke (photo accompanying Ms. Ho's letter). To me, colourblindness would be a natural component of a non-racial-

ized world, our common objective.

My semantic thoughts on alternatives to racism and derivatives partly reflect a concern that the latter may, in fact, serve to reinforce divisions and the notion that "race matters" in human nature. To me, "bigotry" and "ignorance" are stronger and more apt to describe "racism." Also, they encompass more than just inequities based on colour.

Finally, let me reiterate that I believe Ms. Ho and I have much more in common than we have by way of differences.

Rick Kirby
NOTL

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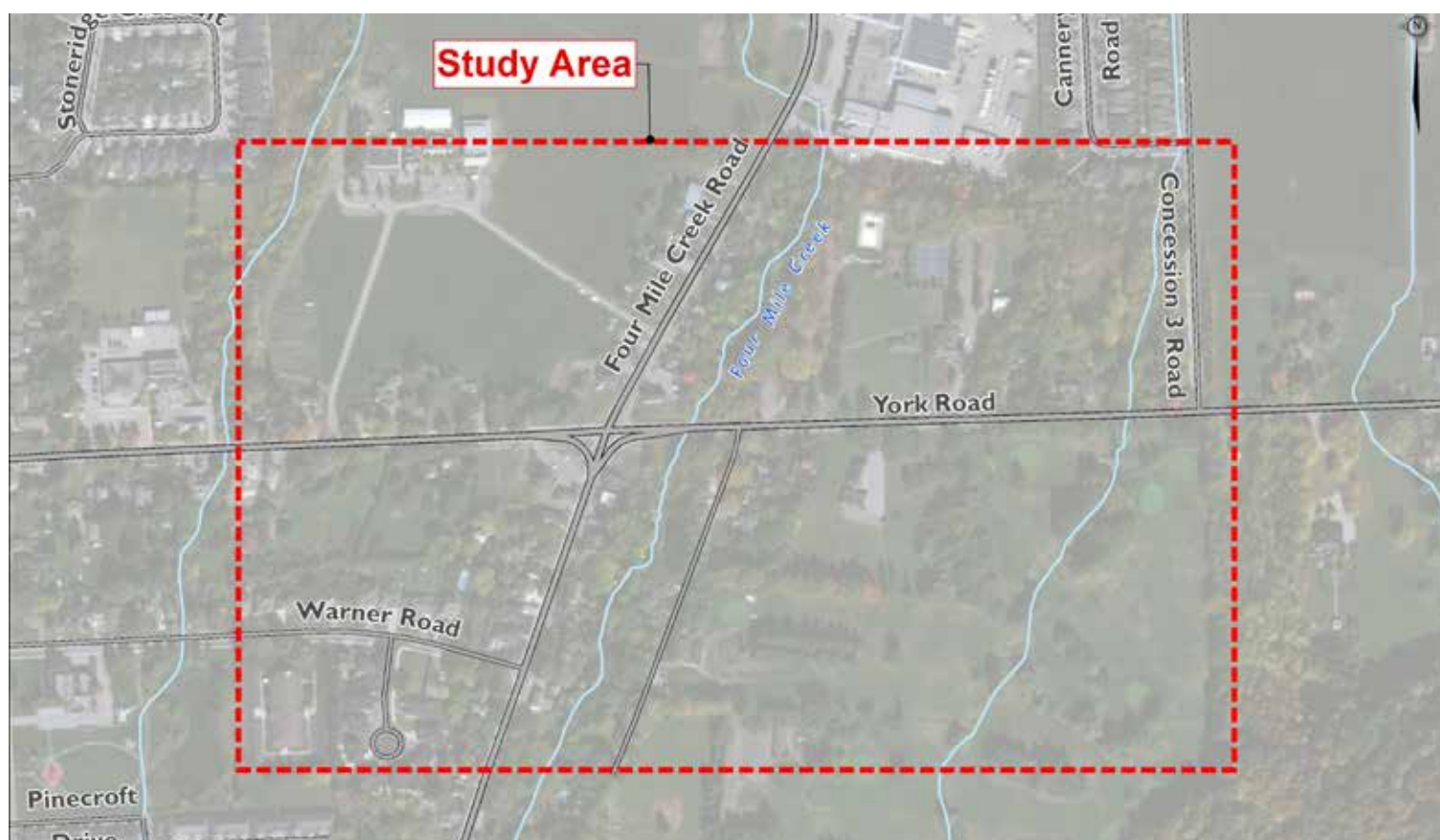
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Pauline Reimer Gibson
Audiologist

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Virtual Public Information Centre #2 Municipal Class Environmental Assessment York Road and Four Mile Creek Road Intersection Improvements, St. Davids, Ontario

Niagara Region is undertaking a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment to address and improve conditions for all modes of transportation at the intersection of Regional Road 81 (York Road) and Regional Road 100 (Four Mile Creek Road), St. Davids. Public Information Centre #1 was held on March 25, to introduce the study. A summary report documenting the comments received from Public Information Centre #1 and the study team's responses are provided on the project webpage: niagararegion.ca/projects/regional-road-100



The second Public Information Centre will be held in an online format on **June 23, 2021 from 6 - 8 p.m.** As part of this event, the study team will deliver an online presentation at 6 p.m. followed by a Q&A. The purpose of this Public Information Centre is to share information about the study, the evaluation of alternative solutions, and the preferred solution.

Information about the online Public Information Centre #2 will be available on the project webpage by **June 23, 2021**, and comments are welcome through one of the project managers, until **July 7, 2021**.

If you would like to receive future notices via email, or have any questions or comments, please contact one of the project managers identified below:

Maged Elmadhoon, M.Eng., P.Eng.
Manager, Transportation Planning
Regional Municipality of Niagara
905-980-6000, ext. 3583
maged.elmadhoon@niagararegion.ca

Phil Weber, M.Eng., P.Eng.
Senior Project Manager
CIMA+
905-695-1005, ext. 6732
phil.weber@cima.ca

Personal information collected or submitted in writing at public meetings 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.

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend and participate in meetings or events, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Please contact the Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.

This notice was first issued on June 9, 2021

NOTL a flurry of activity as patios and stores reopen

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Queen Street was as busy as Queen's Royal Park on Saturday as visitors and locals thronged together to enjoy the first step of Ontario's reopening plan.

Business owners were excited to see life flowing back into Niagara-on-the-Lake's empty pandemic streets.

"It's been super exciting," Gail Cunningham, owner of The Butterfly Gallery on Queen Street, told The Lake Report.

"Everybody's just thrilled to be here and they're anxious to get the shopping done that they haven't been able to do."

Cunningham noticed one specific trait reflected in all her shoppers: "Everybody's in such a good mood."

She wasn't the only person who noticed the positivity in the air.

"Everyone seems very positive and patient and happy to be out," said Amy Gibbs, general manager of the Gate House.

She said people were enthusiastic to be able to dine on a patio again.

"It's that energy that we feel today. It makes our jobs easier and it makes it even more enjoyable to be here and more pleasant," Gibbs said.

John Wiens, part-owner and general manager of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club's restaurant, said he was as excited to have the restaurant open again as he was to have all his staff back.

"It's nice to have the kids back at work. We're really excited about that, and to get the kitchen staff going again," he said.

Read the full story online at niagaranow.com/news.phtml/5740



Customers eat on the patio at the Gate House restaurant. EVAN SAUNDERS

Rand Estate plans draw criticism from residents at open house

Continued from Front Page

surrounding housing because of its density.

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Robert Bader noted a recent development in the area has added "32 dwellings in a space which is roughly one-third of the area onto which Mr. Marotta proposes will accommodate 191 dwellings."

"How does a Mississauga/Brampton-style subdivision in any way constitute compatibility with the 200-year-old estate and surrounding low density neighbourhoods?"

Lowes' defence of the level of housing density pointed to the provincial government and the Region of Niagara.

"The region's calling for an even greater mix of housing types in the area. That is the new provincial direction and our agreement meets this compatibility."

Lowes was referring to the province's "A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe," which addresses such issues as housing density.

The provincial plan seeks to address growing issues of affordable housing by promoting "in particular, higher-density housing options that can accommodate a range of household sizes," the document says.

The plan also suggests low-density housing makes people more dependent on using their automobiles, at a time when obesity, diabetes

and other health issues are on the rise.

Lowes repeatedly referred to the provincial plan as a reason for the style of subdivision proposed.

The proposed subdivision would have an average of 34.3 units per hectare, with 125 single-detached homes and 66 semi-detached homes.

NOTL resident Daniel Kelly, an interior designer, also pushed the planning team on the proposed density. He said that when he was in first year at Ryerson University his professors would challenge the students to pack as many houses onto a property as possible.

"Why was there not more thought given to a creative layout? The concept of low-density seems to be irrelevant. This is not low-density," Kelly said.

"I just wonder where the good planning is in this development, because I don't see it in any aspect."

Lowes offered much of the same answer that he gave Bader. "This is the reality of development in the Greater Golden Horseshoe now," he said.

"We have to meet those requirements of density."

Residents asked about the impact the development will have on the historic aspects of the Rand Estate.

Some were frustrated that the open house and upcoming public meeting (scheduled for July 15) are taking place before the plan

is reviewed by the Conservation Review Board, which oversees the impact development has on heritage sites.

Lowes stressed that no details regarding heritage sites are finalized until the Conservation Review Board has approved them. A hearing is scheduled for July 19.

SGL Planning and Design said it is working to conserve several key aspects of the Rand Estate. The brick pillars and walls along John and Charlotte streets will be restored and maintained. The fence along the Upper Canada Heritage Trail also will be restored.

But NOTL resident Lauren Goettler took strong issue with what she saw as the town's relaxed attitude toward the protection of the Rand Estate compared with the response she got when buying her home on Ricardo Street.

"You called us into a meeting, which was more like a lecture, about the historical relevancy of our house, particularly the 10-by-10 square foot landscaping done by Lorrie Dunnington-Grubb," Goettler said.

"How did you go from being so important that you'd call us in for a meeting to being such a turncoat and working for Benny and destroying it?"

Leah Wallace, whom the comments were directed at, is the former heritage planner for NOTL. She now consults with the town and did the assessments of the

Rand Estate for Solmar's development.

"The Lorrie and Howard Dunnington-Grubb landscape – the bathhouse, pavilion and the surrounding landscaping – will be conserved and restored," Wallace answered.

But residents had little faith in such promises after Solmar cut down dozens of mature trees on the property in 2018, a move that has drawn widespread criticism.

The continued destruction of old oak trees on the property was a source of concern for many who attended the open house.

Resident John McCullough drew attention to two particular oak trees on the property, one is 250 years old and the other 175. He pressed landscape architect David Waverman about the probability they will survive.

Waverman said the development team is still waiting for detailed engineer drawings that will help them understand the full effect of the development on the surrounding area.

"The consulting team will work as an integrated team so that the landscape architects, civil engineers and arborist work together to protect these trees as best as we can," he said.

One detail came as a surprise to attendees and planner Lowes.

This was news, unveiled by resident Derek Col-

lins, that the development would gradually slope upward to the southwest before plateauing 10 feet higher than the surrounding homes along the Promenade.

"It's news to me that we're raising the site by 10 feet," Lowes said.

Residents were concerned this will result in houses in the development looking down on existing homes and could create a potentially damaging water run-off situation.

Fedor Tchourkine, a senior engineer with Schaeffers and Associates, an engineering consulting firm, told residents the land needs to be raised to accommodate storm and sewage drainage, because existing infrastructure is not deep enough for the development.

He said the site would gradually increase in height toward the southwest corner and that the height difference would be seamless.

Backyards would still be level with the surrounding area, meaning most homes at the high points of development would have walk out basements. Residents complained the houses could be upward of 40-feet high because of this.

Tchourkine also addressed concerns about water run-off problems from the development.

"Roofs will be directed towards the road and collected by storm system catch basins," Tchourkine said.

"It's all calculated and we've ensured that the stream won't get flooded and existing properties as well."

The development has a proposed park on its western side, south of Weatherstone Court. Underneath the park will be a massive storm water tank to collect water run-off and slowly distribute it into a stream south of Weatherstone. The water will then flow into One Mile Creek.

Solmar is proposing a single entrance to the subdivision off John Street. Residents were concerned that the increase in traffic wouldn't be manageable and wondered why a roundabout that was previously proposed has been removed from the development plans.

The roundabout was "mainly submitted in support of the hotel proposal," said Kelsey Waugh, transportation engineer at LEA Consulting.

Solmar has withdrawn plans to build a hotel on the estate, resulting in the removal of the roundabout.

Comments from residents were collected by town planner Mark Iamarino to be considered by staff as the proposal is assessed.

The July 15 public meeting will once again allow residents to voice their concerns following an update from Lowes.

A recording of Tuesday's meeting is available online at livestream.com/notl/events/9717322.

Culling ineffective, but preventive measures crucial: Expert

Continued from Front Page

ments and municipalities to understand coyote behaviour and how they can be safely managed in urban environments.

He said most people associate coyotes with wolves but a better comparison would be raccoons.

“People don’t seem to think that (coyotes) have it in them to scavenge because they’re medium-sized predators,” he said. But, “they are as opportunistic as raccoons.”

Coyotes are omnivores, meaning their food sources can be very broad.

“There are pictures of coyotes climbing trees to eat apples,” Gadbois said.

When studying the coyote population in Nova Scotia, he noted that at certain times of the year their feces consisted mostly of fruit.

Fruit isn’t the only source of food that coyotes will search for as scavengers. They are prolific dumpster divers, Gadbois said.

Open dumpsters and public garbage bins with no lids are ideal places for coyotes to scavenge for food and leads to their increased comfort around people.

Parks and schoolyards can be of particular concern when it comes to open garbage bins.

“I was looking at coyote activity in a schoolyard and (as I approached an open garbage can) a coyote just jumped right out of it,” Gadbois said.

“And I remember thinking: ‘A full day of kids throwing bananas and apples and all that stuff in there. It’s a goldmine (for a coyote).’”

There was a direct correlation between the gar-



On Friday farm worker Heremgildo was attacked by a coyote on a porch in Virgil. Left are the bite marks, right is the porch where the coyote approached the man and bit his leg. SUPPLIED

bage bins and the presence of coyotes. Gadbois said throughout the summer, when there was no one at the school, the coyotes vanished. The problem began again in September, with the start of a new school year.

And while the coyotes were at the school scavenging for food, there were no attacks on children.

One of the most important ways to prevent coyotes from growing bold around people is to ensure that all garbage cans have animal-proof lids and that no food is left on the ground, even from bird feeders or fruit gardens.

Gadbois explained why the access to a food source is critical in understanding coyote behaviour.

“Coyotes don’t choose to be with humans if there’s not a good reason for them to be there,” he said.

“Human activity, the noise we make, our dogs – all that stuff makes them a little bit nervous and stressed, especially if they have dens around.”

Gadbois said reduced human traffic during the

pandemic could be partly to blame, but stressed the main problem lies in food conditioning.

If these problems go unaddressed, “it’s just a matter of time before some kind of food conditioning develops in their minds and they associate humans with food,” he said.

As coyotes learn that food can reliably be found in and around human settlements, they begin to forgo their traditional sources of food.

“In extreme cases they may even see humans as the ultimate source of food. I’ve seen myself coyotes being hand fed by humans,” Gadbois said.

Once a coyote develops this association, “they will follow you, because they think that eventually food will come off you in some way,” he said.

Once a coyote begins to associate humans with food it opens up the possibility for the problems reported in NOTL.

Gadbois said a coyote chasing you is not a sign that it wants to attack you.

When you run away from a coyote it triggers what bi-

ologists call a sign stimulus. Their brain instinctively triggers the same response it would have to a prey animal.

“The way lots of predators work, in a strange way, is that if you run they go after you. They almost seem to not even be aware of why they do it,” Gadbois said.

Because of this innate biological mechanism, any time you run from a coyote it guarantees the animal will chase you.

“People riding on bikes seems to trigger them even more,” Gadbois said.

The professor said he has seen people get off their bikes, causing a coyote to stop dead in its tracks, only to start following again the moment the person starts riding again.

“The trick is, and it seems counterintuitive, is to get off your bike and put the bike between you and the coyote.”

Slingerland said he is in favour of a coyote hunt to control the population.

“My grandfather, and some people don’t like this term, used to organize a hunt,” Slingerland said.

“The reality is this particular coyote needs to be stopped,” he said, adding he suspects an individual coyote is responsible for several attacks and instances of people being chased in the past few weeks.

However, Gadbois said culls and bounties have been proven to be an ineffective means of controlling coyote populations.

“Let’s say in one year you kill as many coyotes as you possibly can,” Gadbois said. “It gives a big chance for their prey populations to grow. So, the following year the few that are around have more food availability and less competition. Bouncing back of the population is common in less than two years.”

Gadbois also said transient coyotes will quickly take up the space of culled coyotes and their offspring will have a lower mortality rate due to the increase in available prey resulting from a cull.

When it comes to coyotes targeting pets, Gadbois said the chance for an attack on a pet increases at two very specific times of the year.

In the spring when a female is getting prepared to have a litter she can “get a little bit lazy and go after easy prey,” he said.

“And then you have a second wave, typically in late summer, when the young coyotes who don’t have a lot of experience are experimenting with stuff and trying to figure out what’s easy to catch and what isn’t.”

Gadbois also explained why the incidents involving coyotes in recent weeks have been limited to a single coyote and not a pack.

“Coyotes are monogamous. The pair bond is typically very solid,” Gadbois said.

While the mother is rearing the newborn coyotes, the male will be out hunting for the whole family. That would usually take place from May until sometime in June, when the mother feels confident enough to leave the juveniles on their own, he said.

Gadbois stressed the need for preventive measures.

“Municipalities have to look at their waste management,” he said.

In a coyote update at a committee of the whole general meeting, chief administrative officer Marnie Cluckie said the town is putting animal-proof lids on municipal trash cans and working with Coyote Watch Canada to figure out how best to deal with the animals.

Coun. Gary Burroughs asked Cluckie if the town had been in touch with any trappers to relocate the coyotes but she said there are serious safety issues for people and pets when deploying animal traps in residential areas.

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Mike Shatkosky
 Owner

Gardening can improve your overall health

This is the fourth in a 10-week gardening column series, organized by Niagara-on-the-Lake's Communities in Bloom committee



Charlotte Kromberg
Special to The Lake Report

Ever wondered why you feel refreshed and happier after spending a day outside gardening?

Gardening provides many benefits to help you maintain strong mental and physical health and it contributes to our communities.

Digging through the soil releases healthy soil-borne mycobacteria (such as *Mycobacterium vaccae*) into



Town staff plants a garden on Picton Street. SUPPLIED

the air and your respiratory system. According to Psychology Today, the world's largest publication dedicated to human mental health, these mycobacteria help to stimulate your immune system and increase levels of serotonin.

In turn, the production of serotonin helps you feel more cheerful, reduces stress and uplifts feelings of depression.

Gardening is an excel-

lent way to stay active and beautify your surroundings at the same time. Pulling weeds, digging holes, watering and mending beds keeps your body moving outside in the fresh air while you absorb vitamin D from the sun.

These activities are known to improve heart health, brain function, memory and your quality of sleep.

Growing your own

produce and enjoying food fresh from the garden is part of a healthy diet. And, by sharing your bounty with your friends and neighbours, you form connections and friendships throughout your community.

There are many benefits to gardening, so get out there and plant something beautiful, and improve your health and that of your community at the same time.

In the words of the poet Alfred Austin, "To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body, but the soul."

Visit jointheconversation-notl.org/garden to check out the Garden of the Week contest, run by NOTL's Communities in Bloom committee, and submit your garden or garden feature for consideration in one of 10 categories.

Charlotte Kromberg is a horticulturist for the Town of NOTL.

Town to remove Ontario courts from bylaw ticketing system

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is planning to bypass the Ontario court system to deal with non-parking related bylaw infractions.

The new system, the Non-parking Administrative Monetary Penalty System, referred to by staff as AMPS, will see the final decisions on bylaw fines removed from the Ontario Court of Justice and overseen by a contracted legal professional in Thorold.

If residents take issue with the decision of the hearing officer, they can still take the matter to court.

"It gets rid of a lot of red tape and it cuts out having to

go to the provincial courts," Lord Mayor Betty Disero told The Lake Report.

Under the old system, if someone received a bylaw fine they wanted to challenge it would proceed to the Ontario Court of Justice, said Craig Larmour, director of community and development services.

Judicial trials for fines can "take months, and currently years because of the impact of the pandemic on the court systems," Larmour told councillors in a committee of the whole planning meeting on June 7.

The delays also cost the town money.

"There's costs associated with legal representation.

And those are not supported by proportional increases in

the fines and charges that are issued by the court. So, we're continually falling further and further behind," Larmour said.

In using the courts, the town splits ticket revenue in half with the region. With the new system that revenue stays with the town.

The system is already in place for parking-related offences. Councillors saw it as a natural transition for other bylaw-related offences.

"It almost seems too good to be true," Coun. Clare Cameron said.

Residents can dispute their ticket with a screening officer who works for the town. If the screening officer reaffirms the charge, the resident can challenge the ticket again.

This time it goes to a hearing officer who works in Thorold and is contracted by the town.

Disero said she understands some residents might be concerned that the process is not fair if it does not go through the court system.

"It's going to be a fair system because it's not going to be something that the town will be adjudicating on. It will be someone who knows about bylaws and is unbiased in their thinking," she said.

Since implementing this system with parking offences and applying an appeal fee to challenge a ticket, the monthly number of screenings the town deals with has dropped to two from 30, Larmour said.

The plan goes to council for final approval on June 21.

RIDDLE ME THIS

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

Last issue: People make me, save me, change me, raise me. What am I?

Answer: Money

Also accepted: A proposal or suggestion, or a baby/child

Answered first by: Susan Hamilton

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Janice Taylor, Sylvia Wiens, Howard Jones, Charlotte (10) and Gwendolyn (8) Webber Mayeda, Wesley Turner, Pam Dowling, Robert Wilms, Sheila Meloche, Carol Durling, Chris Van de Laar, Mary Drost, Bob Stevens, Jack Pentesco, Maria Janeiro, Tee Bucci

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

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Wiley, Sansom top men's league

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Tom Wiley and Brock Sansom were top point-getters in NOTL Golf Club men's league play last Thursday.

They each accrued 23 points under the modified Stableford scoring system.

Runners-up were Arthur Wosinski and James Grigjanis-Meusel, with 21 points each.

Grigjanis-Meusel continued his dominance of the men's leader board, carding a 3-under 33. His round included an eagle 2 on the tough par 4 sixth hole.

His 300-yard drive left him less than 25 feet from the front pin placement and Grigjanis-Meusel drained his putt from the fringe.

Closest to the pin winners were John Kozik (#4) and Jon Taylor (#9).

Gross skins winners of \$25 each went to Tom Goodbody (#2), Stephen Warboys (#3), Grigjanis-Meusel (#6) and Doug McCulloch (#9).

Goodbody's birdie on the second hole also won him a \$66 net skin. Other net skins went to Rob Chubey (#3) and Peter Danakas (#8).

WOOFs league: The Tuesday WOOFs league has resumed competition with 96 men participating, says co-ordinator Bill Katrynyk. Rob Yamamoto and Kevin MacLean were low gross winners this week, shooting 39, while Doug Dineley was low net with 34. Drew Porter was closest to the pin on #4 and Don Cruikshank won the hidden hole prize with a birdie on the fourth. Big money winners in the 50/50 draw were Jim Sifton (\$61) this week and Mike Eagen (\$66) this week.

Women's leagues: In 18 hole women's league play, two groups tied for top spot in Tuesday's "shamble" format team scramble, with a total score of 90.

The winners were the grouping of Louise Robitaille, Judy Mantle and Marg Ketcheson and the team of Martha Cruikshank



Four longtime NOTL Golf Club members hit the links last week. William Smith, Doug Garrett, John Thomson and Ian Rutherford boast a combined age of 345 years. PAUL DICKSON PHOTO

(with a birdie on #9), Yolanda Henry, Marie Ellison and Marilyn Cochrane.

During Tuesday's 9 hole women's league play,

the challenge was to be closest to the 150-yard marker on the first hole and Sherry Gysler had the best shot.

Tennis tune-up



Tennis club members Rick Sherk, top, and Bill Devolin enjoy some practice rounds on the new courts at Memorial Park on Wednesday. RICHARD HARLEY PHOTOS

NiagaraLake
-on-the-
EST. 1781

Senior Citizen
**STRAWBERRY
SOCIAL**
Afternoon Tea



Niagara-on-the-Lake citizens, 65+, are invited to participate in this year's drive-thru and delivery style Strawberry Social.

All participating senior citizens will receive an individual box full of baked treats, tea, and of course, fresh strawberries!

- **Date:** Monday, June 28, 2021
- **Time:** Pick-up/delivery available between 1:00 - 3:00 PM
- **Pick-up location:** Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre, 14 Anderson Lane

Registration is required by
June 22, 2021.

Please visit notl.com/strawberrysocial to register online or call 905-468-3266.

NiagaraLake
-on-the-
EST. 1781

Drive Thru Tulip Bulb Sale

Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre
14 Anderson Lane

Tuesday, June 22, 2021
10:00 am Until Sold Out
\$5.00 per dozen - cash only
bring your own bag

All Proceeds Go To The Town Tree Fund



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Shaw Festival sets up tents for **unusual** performance season

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

It was probably Plato who coined the phrase: “Necessity is the mother of invention.”

But as we crawl our way out of the pandemic, Shaw Festival executive director Tim Jennings could very well have said it too.

After months of thinking and rethinking how to mount productions safely, the Shaw’s 2021 season will get under way with a preview performance of “Charley’s Aunt” on July 9, in an outdoor theatre on the edge of the Commons, space borrowed from Parks Canada for the purpose.

The festival has confirmed six productions for the 2021 main season and three more for the late fall and Christmas period. That announcement also promised details on a series of outdoor concerts and other activities.

Getting to this point has not been easy. The government’s June 11 easing of restrictions finally allowed live



Shaw Festival’s 2021 season will start outdoors, only moving indoors as regulations permit. The Festival has numerous tents around its grounds: on the parking lot, in the garden and this one on Commons land, just behind the main theatre. TIM TAYLOR

performance organizations to rehearse outdoors with a maximum of 10 performers.

“We’ve been rehearsing by Zoom for eight weeks,” said Jennings. “Now we finally have permission for live rehearsals. We’ve built a whole bunch of tents to do that. I feel like we are Tents R Us.”

Even that modest opening step was hard won.

Jennings credits a massive #FairnessForArts lobbying campaign by over 120 different Ontario arts

organizations for opening the performance door even a crack.

“I was one of the steering committee members. We sent out 40,000 letters to MPPs. All we wanted were regulations that were consistent. We wanted parity for live performing arts with sports, film and television protocols.”

To make his point, Jennings tells the story of a TV company recently filming a show in the Shaw’s Royal George theatre, using local

technical support and local actors, doing something that Shaw was not allowed to do. “We just wanted fairness.”

“We know for a fact that the campaign helped to change things.”

Even though they can rehearse, the company still doesn’t know how many people they will be performing for. A decision on permitted audience sizes comes with the next phase of reopening.

But Jennings sounds as though he really doesn’t care.

“We’ve said from day one, if you tell me we can only have 50 people, we will serve the public we can serve. Even if we lose money on it — we are serving basic human needs — we will make it work.

“Fingers crossed we won’t be in terrible shape at the end of the year. If that’s what we need to do, that’s what we need to do.”

Jennings hopes by the fall, things will be pretty much back to normal; people in masks, in the theatres without distancing, at full capacity.

“I suspect we will be very, very full, because people desperately want to see theatre.”

He said the festival will employ just about the same number of performers as previous years.

“We offered work to everyone who was on last summer. Most of the folks are back, perhaps in somewhat different roles. By and large the company looks like it did last year.”

And it’s easy to imagine

the impact a 16-month layoff would have on the professional troupe.

“The artists at Shaw are some of the best in North America,” said Jennings. “And they were prevented from doing what they have trained for all their lives. Everybody was nervous about what would happen at the first live rehearsals last Friday morning. Super excited.”

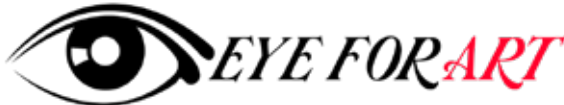
“After an hour or two, it was just like they never left.”

It’s not as if the design and technical teams have not had challenges either.

It has meant rethinking staging and set design to accommodate the constraints of outdoor performances and the move indoors, at some point.

“Normally we are changing over theatres from one production to another, daily. Now we are stripping everything out of each tent at night, putting it all away inside for security and pulling it all back out the next morning.”

“It’s been quite a ride.”



Mistikôsiwak, Resurgence of the People

Penny-Lynn Cookson
Special to The Lake Report

Kent Monkman wields a double-edged sword that looks like a feather but is no less lethal.

In his “Mistikôsiwak,” (Wooden Boat People), the Canadian Cree artist created a grand diptych, two enormous paintings commissioned by the Metropolitan Museum in New York to grace its Great Hall.

This was an exciting opportunity for Monkman to work with the art collection of the Met and the canon of art history to reflect on what colonial history has meant to Indigenous peoples. Inspired by old paintings, contemporary experiences and his love for the language of painting, he has questioned how the artist describes grief, ecstasy and human emotion.

For years he has looked at paintings and sculptures made by settler artists who held a romantic view of Indigenous Peoples as the “vanishing race” – to which Monkman says, “We are very much alive.”

He refutes such themes of disappearance and by combining elements of Indigenous history and camp in his work, he has created the heroic persona Miss Chief Eagle Testickle, who travels through time to reverse the colonial gaze. Miss Chief is a legendary being, albeit his alter ego, who embodies Cree values, including gender fluidity, mythology and history with a playful sense of humour.

She is the hero of the monumental two paintings that reflect the Indigenous perspective and allow Monkman to bring light and light-



Kent Monkman’s “Mistikôsiwak,” 2019, acrylic on canvas, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. SUPPLIED

ness to the dark chapters of Indigenous experience.

Mistikôsiwak is a Cree word for when the French arrived in wooden boats and in “Welcoming the Newcomers,” refers to the current displacement and migrations of peoples around the world.

Miss Chief generously bends down to assist those arriving to North America. In “Resurgence of the People,” the painting described here, Miss Chief commands a migrant boat full of people of all ages displaced from their own lands and heading to shore in a return to their own languages and traditions.

She gestures forward with an eagle feather brandished in her outstretched arm, her strong body swathed in diaphanous red silk and

wearing Christian Louboutin red-soled stilettos (a multitude of innuendo here).

The paddlers press on through a turbulent grey sea. Emanuel Leutze’s “Washington crossing the Delaware” has become the victory sail of Miss Chief. Behind her, a handsome warrior is embraced by his love, who fears he will be killed although he holds aloft a smoking peace pipe. Note the 204 tattoo on his neck (the area code for Manitoba), and a heart tattoo on his bulging bicep.

This couple echoes two Venus and Adonis paintings in the Met, one by Rubens, the other by Titian. Under his arm is a grandmother with the lip chin tattoo of traditional Cree women. Be-

hind her three Graces, young mothers with a newborn baby, herald the birth of spring.

In the prow of the boat, two mothers surround three children, a sister restrains a young brother’s hand that clutches a rosary. Beside them a determined woman, representing the strong matriarchal position of women in Indigenous societies, paddles resolutely forward. Other strong paddlers dip their oars, including Pierre Trudeau in his famous suede fringed jacket.

A child has a hand on his knee and a beaver holding an evergreen branch sits upright in front of him. His oar is held fast by a blue-shirted white man in the water with his red tie slung over his shoulder. Two others are being rescued, the reference here being Géricault’s “Raft of the Medusa.”

An Asian man looks up with reverence to a Black woman rescuer and a barely conscious white man is being gently raised by a Black male passenger. Two rescued Latinos sit stunned in the stern.

As the boat nears shore, it passes four uniformed white men on a rock. One wears

army fatigues, one police riot gear, one is a white supremacist. They brandish AK47s and pistols. One sits, smiles and gives the OK gesture.

In the water float two plastic water bottles, a subtle reminder of the shame of Indigenous communities without clean water and presciently a little girl’s pink and white running shoe. In front of the boat bobs a pelican, symbolic of spiritual travellers and although nearly wiped out by pesticides and hunting by whites, pelicans represent energy, harmony and co-operation. They cannot sink.

And in all these remarkable references in one painting, Monkman weaves stories, legends and insight and in so doing enlightens us with charm, inspiration, talent and seriousness.

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



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ENVIRONMENT

Going Green: Sell it, gift it, **reuse it** to reduce carbon footprint

Robin Jinchereau
Special to The Lake Report

Figuring out how to reuse the stuff you already have is a good way to reduce your carbon footprint.

Sell it online, whether you use Kijiji, Vantage, Facebook marketplace or eBay, you should expect to be able to sell your items for 20 to 25 cents on the dollar.

It's actually really easy to do: just take some good pictures, create a write up and post your items online for no cost. Arrange for curbside pickup and get paid.

Give away stuff. One day we decided to renovate the front steps. We had a nice prefab concrete step that had been provided by the builder.

I moved it to the end of the driveway and put a "free" sign on it. My next-door neighbour rang the doorbell and asked if he could take it off my hands. I was quite surprised and happy to give it to him.

There's also the NOTL Buy Nothing group on Facebook. Read Kyra Simone's "Keeping it Green" column about the organization in the May 6 edition of The Lake Report.



Terry Weiner of Bikes for Farmworkers helps recycle used bikes and give them a new life away from the landfill. It also helps local seasonal workers. FILE/DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Call Bicycles for Farm Workers in NOTL and its volunteers will collect functioning bikes or even bike parts from your house. You can contact Mark Gaudet at 289-783-1684 or Terry Weiner at 905-321-8638 to arrange for a pickup.

These two gentlemen repair the bikes and sell them for \$20 apiece to farm workers in Niagara-on-the-

Lake. They ensure the bikes sold are safe.

One of our kids uses newspapers as gift wrap. It can also be used to wrap household goods for storage or as packaging material for a move.

However, if you're really creative, you can actually transform newspaper into papier mache to create some really awesome artwork.

You can make a glue with water and flour to solidify your shapes and then use some water-based paint to transform it into art.

Take good quality pasta sauce bottles with nice, airtight lids, sterilize them in the dishwasher and use them to store items in your pantry, such as nuts, beans or lentils, grains and rices, even spices.

If you screw the lids to the underside of a shelf you might create more space in your pantry. That way, the pasta sauce bottles can then attach to the lids and be used to store items like lentils, grains, rice, etc.

Reuse an old toothbrush. I keep a couple in my tool kit for hard-to-reach spots to clean or when I need a small brush to tidy things.

Three stores in St. Catharines specialize in accepting unwanted quality household goods that they will either donate or resell to raise funds.

The Christian Benefit Shop welcomes clothing, lamps, rugs, dishes, glassware, pots and pans, linens, coffee makers and tea kettles, books, toys, craft supplies, games, CDs, DVDs, sporting goods, tools, antiques and collectibles. For more info, stcatharineshrift.ca.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul store will accept men's, women's and children's clothing, bedding, towels, glassware, movies, CDs, yarn, crafts and small furniture items. It has two locations: one in St. Catharines and another

in Niagara Falls. For more info, stcatharinescc.ssvp.on.ca.

There also is the Niagara Furniture Bank. The top five items on its donation wish list are computer desks, nightstands or night tables, tea kettles or coffee makers, love seats or recliners, and bed linens. niagara-furniturebank.com.

The ReStore in St. Catharines or Habitat for Humanity also welcomes donated furniture and will collect items from your home (if they deem them appropriate). Take pictures of the item and email it to them to learn if they are suitable. If they collect your items, they will provide you with a receipt for income tax purposes. See habitatniagara.ca.

Hopefully this will help reduce your carbon footprint by allowing someone else to reuse your stuff.

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Robin Jinchereau has degrees in human biology and business administration. He is retired from a long career in the pharmaceuticals industry and has been fascinated for the last 45 years about how to reduce waste.

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Sidewalk robots help look for defects

Staff
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's sidewalk inspectors look a little different this summer.

The municipality has hired Top Hat Robotics to conduct sidewalk inspections and document problems using human-guided robots.

The Waterloo-based company has done similar inspections for a number of other municipalities in Ontario, the Town of NOTL said in a news release.

Two of the robots were busy checking out sidewalks around Glendale on Monday.

"Typically, sidewalk inspections are quite labour intensive and take a significant amount of Staff time," said chief administrator Marnie Cluckie.

Using the robots is faster and lets the town assign operations staff to other jobs, she said.

"Also, the robot's state-of-the-art depth cameras are accurate to within one millimetre – much better than traditional human judgment."



An operator from Top Hat Robotics conducts a sidewalk inspection on Wright Crescent in the Niagara on the Green neighbourhood in Glendale on Monday afternoon. Two robots were patrolling the area looking for sidewalk defects. If the robot detects one, the sidewalk is then marked with spray paint for future maintenance by town staff. Using robotic technology will speed up inspections and allow staff to do other tasks, the town says. STEVE HARDAKER PHOTO

Indigenous talk looks at importance of Strawberry Moon

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Jackie Labonte and Renee Thomas-Hill, an elder in her community, are hosting a talk with Niagara Parks on Thursday revolving around the significance of the Strawberry Moon to Indigenous communities and the Matriarch Circle.

The Strawberry Moon falls on June 24.

"June is the Strawberry Moon and for us Haudenosaunee, which Renee and myself are, that strawberry is very instrumental," Labonte said.

The Strawberry Moon reminds us "nobody exists in a vacuum. We're all connected together especially when we're able to chat and share something," Labonte said.

This cycle reflects the matriarchal nature of Haudenosaunee culture.

"We follow our mother's lineage and that in itself is very important," she said.

Labonte has worked for decades as a counsellor and teacher for people of all ages.

Education "to me is one of the most important things because at one point we are the student and then we become the teacher," she said.

"Teaching others how to do what you've learned, or even just teaching your children, passing on those skills, that's

what's going to keep our culture alive and thriving."

Having worked in correctional institutions, Labonte knows first-hand the power of cultural teaching on individuals.

"They're like sponges, they're like little kids. They just want to learn all different things," she laughed.

Tickets for Labonte's and Thomas-Hill's talk can be purchased at Niagaraparks.com/indigenous.

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The ink is also vegetable-based.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed 45.0m Communications Tower Site ON7846 / Town File No. TEL-01-2021 Located at 684 Concession 1 Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

Xplornet Communications has proposed a 45.0m tall lite duty steel lattice style communication tower and related radio equipment, occupying an area of 3 square metres. The communications tower is proposed in the agricultural area of the Town on private property municipally known as 684 Concession 1 Road, lying on the west side of Concession 1 Road, approximately 135 metres south of Line 7 Road in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The geographic coordinates for the proposed site are as follows: Latitude: 43.180098° & Longitude: -79.070425°.

The proposed structure will enhance internet and data coverage and capacity for the areas between Niagara-on-the-Lake and Queenston.

THIS NOTICE serves as an invitation to any interested members of the public to submit comments/ questions to the individuals listed below by midnight **July 20, 2021**.

There will also be a Virtual Public Open House on: **July 7, 2021 from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

To participate in the meeting please contact Sarah Duncan, sduncan@forbesbrosrtd.ca with your name, email and phone number to register. You must register by **July 6 at 4:00 p.m.**, 2021 to attend.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town's Department of Community and Development Services reviews telecommunication towers proposed within the Town using Niagara-on-the-Lake's Telecommunication Facilities Protocol. The Town's role is to provide comments on telecommunications towers to proponents and Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED). The approval of this site and its design is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Government of Canada through Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED). For more information on the federal process pertaining to these installations please contact the local ISED office at: ic.spectrumswodo-spectrebdsoo.ic@canada.ca OR Tel: 1-855-465-6307.

SITE LOCATION MAP (not to scale)



FB CONNECT:

Sarah Duncan
Suite 130, 482 South Service Rd E
Oakville, Ontario, L6J 2X6
Tel: (905) 808-0073
Fax: (888) 622-4939
Email: sduncan@forbesbrosrtd.ca

Jesse Auspitz, MCIP RPP

1593 Four Mile Creek Road, PO Box 100
Virgil, Ontario, L0S 1T0
Tel: (905) 468-6451
Fax: (905) 468-0301
Email: Jesse.Auspitz@notl.com



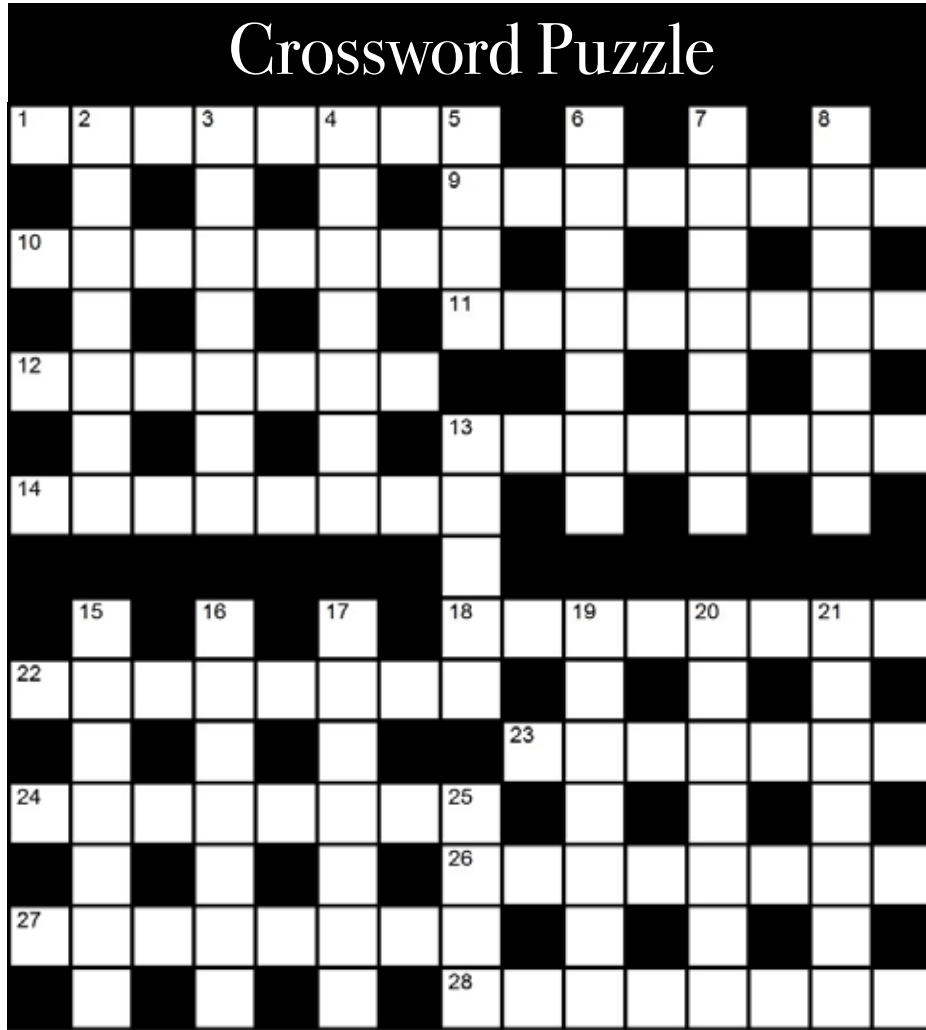
Have some fun

Across

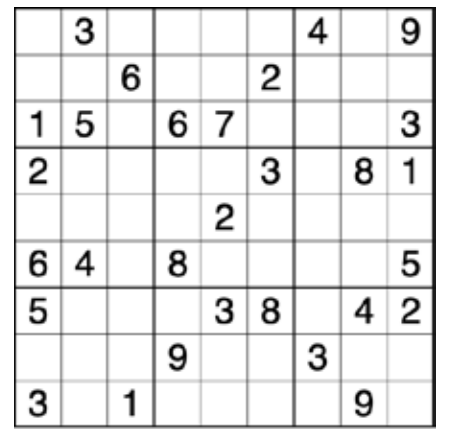
- 1. Fabric (8)
- 9. Longing (8)
- 10. Merchant (8)
- 11. Imagine (8)
- 12. Candidate (7)
- 13. Precarious (8)
- 14. Turns around (8)
- 18. Exceptionally tense (8)
- 22. Portuguese jellyfish (3-2-3)
- 23. Austere (7)
- 24. Hallway (8)
- 26. The world of schools and universities (8)
- 27. Its capital is Little Rock (8)
- 28. Locate exactly (8)

Down

- 2. Breathtaking (7)
- 3. Vague (7)
- 4. Ailment (7)
- 5. Small harp-like musical instrument (4)
- 6. The gathering of crops (7)
- 7. Uncommon (7)
- 8. Cuddle (7)
- 13. Doorkeeper (5)
- 15. Stonework (7)
- 16. Portal (7)
- 17. Like Abba (7)
- 19. Make clear (7)
- 20. Underwater missile (7)
- 21. Inhabitant of e.g. Tehran (7)
- 25. Coarse file (4)



Last issue's answers



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LUXURY FEATURE



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172 GATE STREET, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - \$1,350,000



6762 CHRISTINE COURT, NIAGARA FALLS - \$1,750,000



121 REGENT STREET, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - \$1,990,000



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Dr. Brown: A promising new drug for Alzheimer's – with an asterisk

Dr. William Brown
The Lake Report

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved aducanumab to treat Alzheimer's disease.

Like other similar drugs, it was designed to rid the brains of Alzheimer's patients of buildups of amyloid and, more importantly, slow the progression of the disease. After a decade of repeated failures of similar drugs, approval was welcome news for patients, their families and the Alzheimer's association desperate for good news. Approval was also tacit vindication for the long-standing "amyloid hypothesis" as the primary cause of the disease.

That hypothesis is based on finding clumps of abnormal amyloid in the brains of patients with Alzheimer's. Not surprisingly, the earliest deposits are usually found in the parietal and medial temporal lobes – regions associated with memory, facial recognition and spatial orientation, whose functions are among the first to be disrupted in the disease.

Amyloid isn't the only



SOURCED IMAGE

protein to accumulate in Alzheimer's – phosphorylated tangles of tau form inside nerve cells. So far, however, accumulations of amyloid have been the primary focus of research.

Amyloid accumulations can be detected using positron emission tomographic (PET) scans coupled with agents designed to latch onto and make visible amyloid deposits in the scan.

PET studies reveal deposits of amyloid accumulating in the brain as early as one to three decades before patients and family members become aware of the disease, although closer scrutiny of the histories of patients often reveal early

"soft" signs consistent with those early scan findings. These two observations, PET scans and the history of the earliest clinical symptoms, strongly suggest that if effective and most important, well-tolerated treatments were employed much earlier in the disease, those at high risk for Alzheimer's might not be fated to develop the cellular damage and losses and the associated cognitive and behavioural declines in later years.

As we've learned in this pandemic, approval of vaccines and, in this case, a new drug, face three hurdles, phase 1, 2 and 3 trials before approval. The

first two test safety and effectiveness in small numbers of patients while phase 3 trials involve much larger numbers of participants divided into two groups, those who receive the drug and the control arm of the study.

Clinical trials are highly complex affairs designed to test whether a given drug works. For aducanumab the most important questions centre on its effectiveness in clearing the brain of amyloid and slowing the cognitive and behavioural decline in patients, and whether any adverse side effects are manageable and not serious enough to fail the drug for clinical use.

Reviewing the phase 2 trial of aducanumab in 2018, I was impressed. The drug was clearly capable of reducing the amyloid load in the brain and more importantly for me, the evidence suggested the rate of cognition decline was slowed compared to controls. Enter the phase 3 trials.

There were two phase 3 trials: both showed that the drug reduced the amyloid load, as expected, but only one trial suggested a reduc-

tion in cognitive decline. The latter was a sticking point for the FDA's own advisory panel and several outside advisers.

Despite those reservations, the FDA approved it. Most in the Alzheimer's universe were delighted but some of the reviewers were concerned the evidence for a reduction in the rate of cognition decline was not convincing enough and perhaps might set too low a bar for future FDA approvals.

Clinical trials have become the gold standard by which drugs, vaccines and other treatments are assessed – and rightly so usually – but not always. Most clinical trials are double-blinded, that is the participants and assessors do not know who received the drug and who got the placebo.

That sounds fine but, in my experience, many drugs are associated with some effects that telegraph to the subject who received the drug. That was especially true in my days working in multiple sclerosis clinics where many of the drugs were associated with obvious symptoms and give-

aways to who got what.

What do I think of the approval? My answer is a cautious yes – I can see why some experts disagreed. To all those who designed and participated in these studies, I tip my hat, but I wonder if it might be too late to treat symptomatic patients, if we are to see convincing effects on slowing or perhaps even reversing cognitive declines.

I think the future lies with treating all the neurodegenerative diseases as early as possible – well before any clinical symptoms such as those cases with an autosomal dominant disorder where possession of the mutant gene is virtually a guarantee of getting the disease. In those cases the fix will be with some form of gene editing. That would be true for Huntington's disease and probably the autosomal dominant version of Alzheimer's disease.

More about that at Infohealth in September.

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



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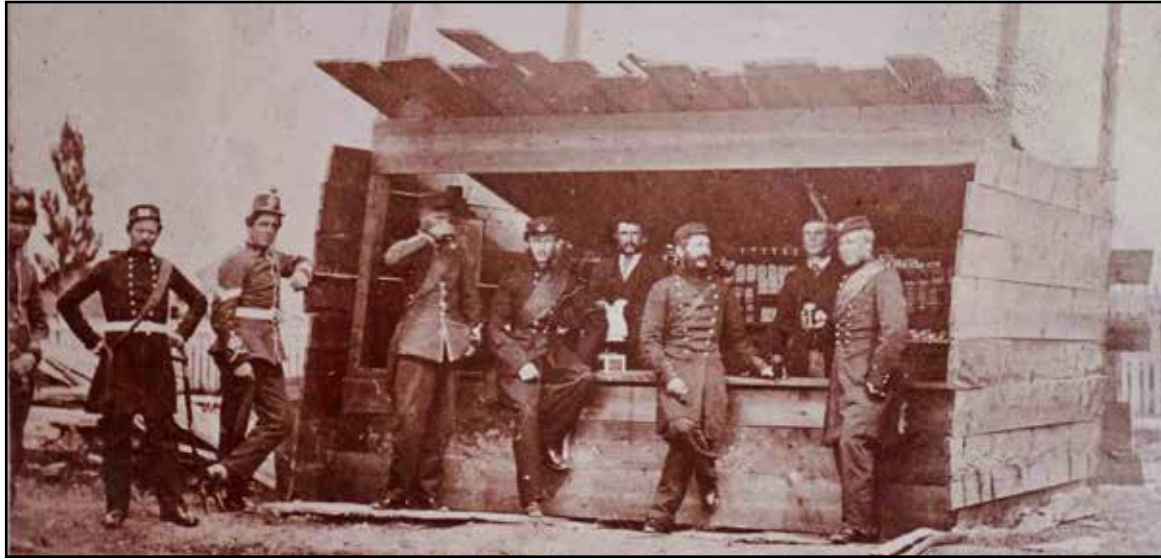
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Niagara Volunteers circa 1866

Here's an image of a few Niagara Volunteers on active service in Fort Erie during the Fenian Raids of 1866. Former curator Janet Carnochan identified the local men in the photograph as Capt. E. Thompson, Lt. R. Currie, Ensign Johnson Clench, George Ellison, and James Matthews. This may be a photograph of an officers' mess in the field or a whiskey seller's booth. The Fenians were comprised of Irish patriots who emigrated to the United States. Their desire for Irish Independence convinced them that they could take Canadian territory by force and hold it for ransom against Britain. Between 1866 and 1871, they launched a series of attacks but were put down by government forces. Although the raids were unsuccessful, many Canadians at the time were deeply concerned about the threat of an American attack. These attacks strengthened the push to further Confederation in Canada.

Obituary

Barbara Griffin



It is with great sadness that the family of Barbara Jane Griffin announce her passing.

She is survived by her twin sister Bev Munkley, her sister Sandra Griffin Reading and her brother in law Herb Reading.

Barb inherited her father, Dick Griffin's, artistic genes. She found her true vocation at OCA and graduated in 1980 with a degree in illustration. She made lifelong friends there.

She pursued her career for many years.

Throughout her life, Barb and Bev had many antique adventures, starting with going to their first auction at 14 years of age. Eventually this hobby became her career and she was never happier. She had a store in the north building of the St. Lawrence Market for more than 20 years. She held court there to many loyal customers who were mesmerized by her spirit, vitality and her love of vintage.

When the city tore down her building, she moved to Cookstown Antique Market where she had started 25 years earlier. She loved going there and filling her booth with lovely quilts and vintage textiles, her specialty.

She was kind to people and animals alike, at one time she had two rescue rabbits, two indoor cats and two feral cats all in her care.

A bright light has gone out. People loved her. An old family friend, John Evans, said "Barb was like a party just about to start." Full of bubbling energy.

In lieu of flowers please send donations to the Yee Hong P.K. Kwok Hospice, 60 Scottfield Dr., Scarborough, Ont. M1S 5T7

We would like to thank Dr. E. Ling, Dr. D. Otal and their amazing staff at the Yee Hong Hospice, for their care of Barb. They are the kindest people on the planet.

There will be a celebration of her life at a later date, in Toronto and Niagara. Condolences may be placed online at mcdbrownscarb.ca.

Looking to the Stars

Summer Solstice

Bill Auchterlonie
Special to The Lake Report

For the week of June 17 to 23: Jupiter goes retrograde, Mercury goes direct and the summer solstice marks the start of summer 2021.

Thursday, June 17: Today is the first quarter moon in Virgo. It's a challenging time as are all first-quarter moons. With the distractions around the new moon a week ago thanks to the solar eclipse, we likely forgot the ritual of setting new priorities for the lunar month. Make up for lost time and get back on track. One of Canada's greatest boxers, Tommy Burns, was born June 17, 1881.

Friday, June 18: A mildly positive day as the sun is friends with the north node of the moon while Mars and the moon do a little dance tonight. It's kinda sweet and sexy. On June 18, 1991, Bryan Adams' song "Everything I Do" reached #1 on Billboard. It also won a Grammy award.



Saturday, June 19: A surprise expense won't be so bad now that we've been forewarned. Fortunately, heart and mind are on the same page today. On June 19, 1846, the New York Nines defeated the Knickerbockers in the first recognized baseball game. The score was 23-1.

Sunday, June 20: Today Jupiter goes retrograde, so our belief system is up for a review. Most of our beliefs are borrowed from other people. When Jupiter goes retrograde it's time to look at these borrowed beliefs and ask whether they really define us. Our natural state is to have faith in life. When we lose this faith, we know something needs to be addressed and reviewed. And today at 11:32

p.m. is the summer solstice, as the sun begins its journey south. Summer is here! Academy Award winner Nicole Kidman turns 54 today.

Monday, June 21: Happy birthday to all Cancers. Today is the first full day of the sun in Cancer. As with the sun's ingress into any cardinal sign, this is an important turning point because the sun literally changes direction when it is at 0 degrees Cancer. If you're in the Northern Hemisphere, the sun starts moving south, and if you're in the Southern Hemisphere, it starts moving north. This is when we reach a crossroad: do we continue on the same path or do we choose to start a new course? F.W. Woolworth opened his first 5 and 10 Cent store on June 21, 1879 in Lancaster, Penn.

Tuesday, June 22: Today, Mercury goes direct in Gemini, bringing back our focus, mental clarity and sense of direction. The good thing about this is that it occurs in Gemini, the sign of its domicile. When Mer-

cury is in domicile, even the retrograde is not as tough as it is in other signs of the zodiac. And now that Mercury goes direct, not only is a weight suddenly lifted from our shoulders, but we also will also have a feeling of accomplishment and forward momentum. Widely considered the best actress of her generation, if not all time, Meryl Streep celebrates 72 years today.

Wednesday, June 23: Our highest mind and our deepest subconscious are both in play today. Our mind brings us earthly delights while our willpower pushes against something more spiritual. Be happy. Don't give in to the bad stuff. On June 23, 2016, voters in the United Kingdom voted 52 per cent to 48 per cent to leave the European Union. The Kingdom is no longer United.

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

Kendall's Corner



Tracy Hanson and Vito Gelose sell craft beer and wine jellies at the NOTL Farmers' Market. GAIL KENDALL



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HAPPY PRIDE 2021 NOTL!

May everyone feel the joy of this celebration of love and inclusivity! Cheers to our LGBTQIA+ Community!
Love is Love is Love is Love.

Thank You NOTL!

For making the Grand Opening of our Newly Renovated English Beer Garden an overwhelming success! It was wonderful to see everyone's smiling faces once again, we look forward to seeing you all summer long. Your support is appreciated immensely! Thank you as well to all those who participated in our Opening Weekend Prize Draw and congratulations to our winners of the draw! We hope you all enjoy your gifts!

Thank you to our amazing staff for all of our hard work, dedication, and for providing rockstar service to our valued guest. You all deserve a round of applause! Finally, we want to give a warm welcome to all of our new Angel staff, they look forward to meeting each and every one of you! Cheers NOTL!

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