



Vine damage could cut 2022 grape harvest in half: Experts

Jill Troyer
The Lake Report

Heavy rain and cold air severely damaged Niagara's grape vines last winter, and early signs show growers could lose 50 per cent or more of their crops this year.

Grape and tender fruit industry expert and consultant Ryan Brewster said assessments are still being done, but predicts yields could

Continued on Page 4



'Record breaking' year for Virgil Stampede

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

The Virgil Stampede saw one of its best years ever, says Virgil Business Association president Richard Wall.

"Overall, it was a resounding success. Our top line revenue was one of our best ever and our bottom line profits were also probably one of our best ever," Wall said, during a phone interview with The

Continued on Page 5

A motorcycle ride for justice

Native Centre event supports **generational victims** of residential school system



Wanda Griffin, pictured with her 1984 Honda Shadow, is one of the organizers of the Residential School Ride for Justice. EVAN SAUNDERS

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A long line of motorcycles descended on the Niagara Regional Native Centre on Sunday for the second annual Residential School

Children's Ride for Justice. "It's been a long day. But it's been an amazing day," Ride organizer and Haudenosaunee Wanda Griffin said during an interview at the centre.

Griffin said the goal of the ride is "to raise awareness

of residential schools." The ride saw hundreds of motorcyclists from across the province ride in solidarity with Indigenous people in Canada to offer support and raise money.

Money raised from the ride will be donated to sev-

eral organizations that work to help Indigenous people deal with residential school trauma. Some of it will go to the Niagara Regional Native Centre, which hosted the event and organizes a myriad of outreach and support programs for Indig-

enous people in the region. Griffin said the trauma inflicted on Indigenous people in residential schools has travelled through generations, even if immediate relatives did not attend one

Continued on Page 21

New program will **monitor pollution** at Niagara Shores Park



Kyra Simone
The Lake Report

Thanks to a new water-monitoring program, a much-loved Niagara-on-the-Lake beach is finally getting the care it deserves.

In response to Keeping it Green columns that raised concerns about Niagara Shores, the non-profit environmental organization

Niagara Coastal has begun regular water quality sampling at the park.

As one of only three publicly accessible shorelines in Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Niagara Shores beach is a popular spot for hiking, dog walking and even swimming.

But, through regular litter



A volunteer takes a water sample in Lake Ontario. SUPPLIED

Continued on Page 5

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Left: Gunner Herbert Longhurst is buried near the hospital in Boulogne where he died in 1917. NOTL MUSEUM

Right: The Nursing Sisters of the Canadian Army Medical Corps worked in the "Stationary Hospitals" set up to deal with badly wounded soldiers. CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM

THE MONUMENTS MEN

Herbert Longhurst survived battles of Somme and Vimy Ridge

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

Ron Dale
Special to The Lake Report

During the First World War, 51,748 Canadians were killed in action or died of wounds before they could seek medical attention.

More than 173,000 Canadian men were wounded and received medical care but more than 12,000 of those soldiers would die in hospital.

Given the conditions of the time, it is a miracle that 93 per cent of those

receiving medical attention survived.

Sadly, Gunner Herbert Longhurst of Niagara-on-the-Lake was not one of the lucky ones.

Longhurst was born in the Town of Niagara in 1888, son of coal merchant James Longhurst and his wife Ellen. His father died when Herbert was 15 and rather than take up his father's trade, he became a train engineer.

Soon after war broke out Longhurst enlisted in the artillery in Toronto on Nov. 30, 1914.

He was assigned to the 14th battery of the 4th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery and received six months of training before shipping off to England, arriving on May 30, 1915.

Following four more months of training on Salisbury Plain in England he was considered ready to enter the fray and was sent to France.

Gunner Longhurst survived several major battles including the St. Eloi Craters in April 1916 and Mount Sorel in June 1916.

His unit was moved from the Ypres Salient to fight



A depiction of a "Stationary Hospital" from the First World War. CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM

in the Battle of the Somme from Aug. 31, 1916. Over the next two months, braving foul weather, glutinous mud and enemy artillery fire, Longhurst kept himself alive.

On Oct. 29 he was wounded, receiving a blow to the forehead that kept him incapacitated for almost two weeks. Recovering, he returned to his unit on Nov. 10 and continued to participate in the bloody Battle of the Somme.

Longhurst remained in action, frequently perform-

ing the back-breaking labour of moving his heavy artillery piece to new positions, hauling it out of the clinging mud and digging a new gun emplacement in another part of the line.

From April 9 to April 14, 1917, he participated in the Battle of Vimy Ridge in which the largest artillery barrage in history to that point was fired from 863 Canadian guns in a relentless bombardment of German positions.

The guns were moved after the successful Canadian

attack on Vimy and took up positions to consolidate the Canadians' hold on the captured territory. It was here, at the end of the Battle of Arleux, that Longhurst's luck ran out.

On April 30, during an intense German bombardment of Canadian artillery positions, Longhurst was seriously wounded in the head, arm and chest.

Stretcher bearers rushed to where he lay and worked to staunch the bleeding. He was carried through the mud to a regimental aid post in one of the support trenches behind the front line.

There his wounds were quickly dressed. He was again carried by stretcher farther from the front lines and loaded into an ambulance and taken to the next level of medical aid at a "dressing station," where he was assessed by a Canadian Army Medical Corps doctor.

It was determined he was seriously enough wounded to be sent to one of the 11 "Stationary Hospitals" operated by the medical corps.

These hospitals offered the best of care at the time,

with surgeons on staff to perform operations, including many amputations of badly smashed limbs. They were assisted by Nursing Sisters of the Canadian Army Medical Corps, some of the 2,800 Canadian nurses who volunteered to serve.

Hospital staff were as well-trained as anyone in civilian life but were overwhelmed by the number of casualties under their care.

The lack of antibiotics and the poor sanitary conditions during a wounded man's journey from trench to hospital meant wounds quickly became infected.

In many cases the wounds were too severe, with men blasted by high explosives, some with chunks of steel shrapnel embedded throughout their bodies and harsh burns from exploding shells. Not all could be saved.

Herbert Longhurst died of his wounds at the Stationary Hospital at Boulogne on May 24, 1917.

He was buried near the hospital along with 5,576 Commonwealth soldiers who died in that hospital during the First World War.



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Norm Arsenault drops out of council race

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



Norm Arsenault.

After briefly entering his name in the running, Coun. Norm Arsenault has decided to withdraw from the upcoming municipal election.

"I found myself working on Saturday and Saturday night and I thought to myself, 'Why am I doing this?'" the 72-year-old Arsenault said during an interview on Tuesday.

Arsenault said, while he has loved his time serving the town, he has a strong work ethic and has found his involvement in municipal affairs to be "all encompassing."

"I thought, you know what, at this stage in my life I'm not sure I want to do this anymore. I had to take a good introspective look at what I was doing and I didn't like where I ended up," Arsenault said.

"So, it was time to take a step back and retire for the fourth time," he said with a laugh. "It's just time to stop and smell the roses, as it were."

Arsenault is proud of council's accomplishments in the last four years and says he is happy with the legacy he will leave.

He cited the tree bylaw, the town declaring a climate emergency, the creation of the environmental advisory committee and the grinder pump resolution as some of his accomplishments.

But he was particularly proud of how council has moved to address the problem of short-term rentals.

"We brought in large fines and made it illegal to operate without a licence, illegal to advertise without a licence," he said.

He also touted the implementation of the Administrative Monetary Penalty System and oversight from Granicus Host Compliance as giving the municipality the tools to monitor and enforce short-term rental bylaws. Tools that were previously lacking.

"In the previous seven or eight years (before AMPS) there was only one charge brought against short term rentals," he said.

He said since the AMPS system came into effect last September, there have been more than 50 charges laid against short-term rentals and 90 illegal rentals identified and either shut down or brought into compliance.

"So, it's made a big difference."

He also said he is proud of the implementation of the municipal accommodations tax.

He said running the town during the pandemic proved very difficult and exhausted council, staff, residents and business owners alike.

Finances also dropped like a rock and the audit and finance committee were just trying to "keep our heads above water," he said.

Arsenault said the biggest disappointment by far was the delayed implementation of the new official plan.

"Hopefully by September, maybe October at the very latest, we should be able to finish the (official plan) and put that into place."

Arsenault is looking forward to putting his feet up, playing some guitar and travelling.

"I've been looking at the Azores. It looks like an awfully interesting place."

Niagara Now and Lake Report launch new website

Staff
The Lake Report

It's out with the old and in with the new at niagaranow.com – The Lake Report's long-established news website – as we have transitioned to a new online presentation.

Our new website layout has a cleaner, more modern look, but with the same great functions to bring Niagara's best news to your phone, desktop or other smart device.

Some of the highlights of the new site include additional news categories, increased search ability, more spots for advertising and several enhancements to make your reading more enjoyable.

There is also an updated function for users to add local events.



The new Niagara Now site is up and running now.

With our new search feature, all of our stories are more easily accessible, so if you're looking for something from the past, give it a try.

Our regular readers will have noticed some small issues as we transitioned the site over the past few weeks.

No doubt there will be some things to tweak as we

work on all the new bugs that come with changing a system, so please be patient.

We'd like to offer a note of gratitude to NOTL web designer Tom Jensen and his company Anchored Media for the careful attention to detail to make Niagara Now's new launch a success.

The Lake Report was launched four years ago as a hyperlocal print edition to serve Niagara-on-the-Lake.

But niagaranow.com, where you'll find all your NOTL news, has been operating for about five years, beginning as a website focused mainly on region-wide Niagara news and features.

As well, digital copies of all our print editions are just a click away on our archive site, lakereport.ca.

We opted for a quiet debut, with a soft launch over the past few weeks so we could work out any bugs (with new technology, there are always bugs).

So if you find errors or broken links or pages on the site, please send an email to editor@niagaranow.com and we will endeavour to fix them right away.

NOTL man arrested on child pornography charges

Staff
The Lake Report

A Niagara-on-the-Lake man has been arrested on child pornography charges.

Police began investigating Chad Ransome, 41, in October 2021.

In the morning hours of June 23, police executed a search warrant at a Niagara-on-the-Lake

address. As a result, Ransome was arrested and charged with possession of child pornography and unlawful access of child pornography.

Ransome was held in

custody pending a bail on June 23.

Niagara Regional Police could not answer an email inquiry about whether Ransome was let out on bail.

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Archeological dig could unearth buried headstones in Black cemetery

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Jim and Marilyn Russell have done a lot of work in the Negro Burial Ground in Niagara-in-the-Lake over the last two months — but there's still a long way to go.

Russell was recently sent an email by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake asking him to desist from any further action at the graveyard until he had consulted with the Bereavement Authority of Ontario about work on the site.

He did that, and quickly had the authority support his initiative and recommend an archeological company, licensed by the province, to do further work on the site.

Archaeological Research Associates Ltd. have submitted a proposal to do the work at the site for \$59,000. The proposal involves research, excavation and a detailed conservation plan.

But Russell says what



Jim Russell, dressed as always in business casual with knee pads, cuts the grass by hand around the Canadian flags he has installed at the Negro Burial Ground on Mississauga Street with his wife Marilyn Russell. EVAN SAUNDERS

happens next is, to a degree, out of his hands. He gave the assessment to Kevin Turcotte, NOTL's manager of parks and recreation.

Russell says his expectation is for Turcotte to "submit the proposal to the town to find the money to approve the proposal and to find the money — the \$59,000 — the archeo-

logical company is going to need to unearth the 19 buried headstones."

Since the town is the landowner it must also initiate further work on the cemetery through the bereavement authority, an email from Turcotte to Russell said.

Russell said the archaeological team was happy the

ground penetrating radar had already been conducted.

"They are confident they can find the headstones. Now, they may be a foot off, one way or the other. What they basically do is determine an area and then start removing soil inch by inch until they actually reach the headstone."

"It's Indiana Jones stuff," Russell said with a laugh.

In handing off the assessment to the town, Russell is getting ready to settle into his two new duties regarding the site.

"Maintenance and research," he said.

Russell was in NOTL on June 28 to replace the Canadian flags he had initially installed at the site with sturdier versions.

Many of the flags Russell and Marilyn had installed in May have been torn or destroyed during the wind and rain storms that have frequented Niagara-on-the-Lake in the past few weeks.

The research side of things could, unfortunately,

be going a little better.

Russell had previously reached out to McMaster University's Canadian Baptist Archives to try and find any documents they had relating to the Baptist church that once stood on the cemetery grounds.

"They completely threw up their hands. They have no records of a Baptist Church being here," Russell said.

"Evidently, this Baptist church was not part of their enclave."

Russell also reached out to the University of Toronto for help researching the church.

"They, in turn, recommended McMaster."

He has even been in communication with a Baptist group in Georgia in the United States.

"They have no record of a baptist church here either. So, someone just established a Baptist church here."

In the meantime, Russell will pursue other avenues of research as he waits for the

archeological assessment to make its way through town staff.

Archaeological Research Associates Ltd. have drafted a three part plan at the site for \$59,000.

Stage 1 involves extensive background research on the surrounding area. Stage 2 would see the technicians from the company actually work to uncover the buried headstones.

It is estimated that there are 19 buried headstones in the cemetery, based on ground penetrating radar performed by Global GPR Solutions Inc. in May.

Any materials uncovered will be subject to extensive testing and cataloguing.

The headstones would be kept in a safe storage area while all of the necessary tests are performed and their state of deterioration assessed.

The company also proposes to create a detailed conservation plan for how to best preserve the headstones and the cemetery.

Heavy rain, cool air hit vines hard, especially in lower regions

Continued from Front Page

be affected for up to three years as a result.

"It's the worst winter damage since 2005," Brewster told The Lake Report.

Matthias Oppenlaender, chair of Grape Growers of Ontario, said growers are "trying to get a handle on it, but for sure it's significant damage."

"We knew there could be some damage, but the extent of it was surprising," Oppenlaender said.

"We're still assessing, we'll know better later in the season."

The damage is very site specific, affecting lower lying areas worse than others, creating a patchwork quilt in the vineyards, with brown blocks appearing alongside vibrant green vines growing normally, explains Wade Stark, vineyard operations manager for Andrew Peller Ltd.

Stark notes that "some vineyards are dead, others are normal, and there's everything in between."

"It's amazing, in Beams-



New growth reveals damage to vines. DON REYNOLDS

ville, vineyards on a slope are now having close to a normal year, then there are others that are flat or in a depression where cold air could settle, and we have not just bud damage, but vine death."

He echoed Brewster's estimate that farmers could lose 50 per cent of their crops this year.

Both Stark and Oppenlaender said Niagara-on-the-Lake was likely harder hit than the bench area, because it is flatter and low spots fared the worst.

The level of damage in the vineyards came as an unwelcome surprise to growers.

"People have been sur-

prised now that the damage is showing, it's right in front of our eyes and untold acres are impacted. Nobody saw this coming, this level of impact," Stark said.

"We came into spring looking pretty good, but once we started getting growth, we found damage," explained Jim Willwerth, an assistant professor and researcher at Brock University's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute.

There were many contributing factors, going back to last fall, Stark said.

"We had a lot of heavy rain in a short period of time in September and October. There was just so much water that the

hardiness of the buds being formed was affected."

"We had the wind machines going 10 nights last winter, which is way more than usual. Most winters it's only two to three nights," Stark said.

The buds formed in 2021 are the source of growth for the 2022 season.

"The vines were less hardy going into the winter, then we had multiple nights where temperatures were anywhere from -19C to close to -28C," said Stark, adding "there were big pockets of cold air, so not everyone got hit, but the low spots got hammered."

Willwerth describes it as "a series of cold events, which were very sporadic and extreme. They were also site specific, especially affecting low spots."

Growers have a range of actions to take going forward, depending on the type of damage their vines have sustained.

"We check vines during bloom time, to look for damage to trunks, and to assess shoot growth,"

explained Brewster.

If only some of the buds have been damaged, the vine could have fewer shoots per plant, but still produce fruit this year and fully recover next year, said Stark.

"But if there's vascular damage in the trunk, the clusters can't get what they need," he said.

"The plant will throw out suckers at the bottom, and some growers will let that grow into a new trunk this year, and produce one arm next year."

Growers can recover their vines that way, but it's time consuming.

"We can replenish vines from bottom growth, but then we've lost a full year and it's really three years until we're back to full production," said Brewster.

And if vines are dead, they must be pulled out and replanted. Next Spring is the earliest time for replanting and in many cases new vines won't be available until spring 2024. Once they are planted, it takes three to five years before a

full harvest, according to Brewster.

"We won't be back to any kind of normalcy for at least three years, and that's if Mother Nature co-operates for the next three years," said Brewster.

"It's very tough, and it takes a lot of labour to recover the vines, so there is a cost increase in farming," said Oppenlaender.

Growers have insurance that covers both crop loss and vine loss, but not 100 per cent of it, Oppenlaender notes.

"Vine loss is covered, but there is a 12 per cent deductible, and crop insurance covers 70 to 85 per cent of the loss."

With crop losses, increased costs, and the prospect of a long road to recovery, Oppenlaender said "it's a tough pill to swallow for a lot of growers."

He said the Grape Growers of Ontario association will be reaching out to the provincial government to see how they can help, "once we see more precisely how extensive the damage is."

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Virgil Stampede sees ‘record revenue,’ business association donates \$1,000 to pickleball club

Continued from Front Page

Lake Report just after the association finished up its final meeting before summer vacation on Monday.

He said it was particularly surprising, given that there were some weather challenges on two of the days.

“But Monday seemed to make up for it,” Wall said.

Based on ticket sales, he said there were about 10,000 people that walked through the gates “on Monday alone.”

Wall declined to give a firm number on how much money was made through the charitable event.

“I think we just prefer to say it was a record revenue and a record overall for us,” he said.

“Gate revenue was tremendous. It always is strong but it’s never been quite that strong, just because of extreme attendance Monday,” he said.

It was also a record year at the food stands.

“From what I understand from Phil managing the food from his end, probably the



About 10,000 people went through the gates on the Monday of the Virgil Stampede. FILE/EVAN SAUNDERS

single biggest day of food revenue we’ve ever had.”

The money raised by the Stampede is used by the Virgil Business Association to support sports and recreation in town.

Past donations have included \$125,000 toward the Virgil splash pad and \$150,000 to the skate park.

Wall said there are no plans set in stone regarding what the organization will do with the boon from this year’s stampede, yet.

“As far as future funding projects, we’ve talked hypothetically about a few but we don’t have anything targeted at this point in time.

So we’re going to investigate a couple of different ideas and opportunities.”

He said one thing the group wanted to do was support the pickleball club after it was ordered by a judge to pay a \$1,000 fine and to stop using the outdoor courts at Centennial Sports Park for two years.

“As an organization, I think we’re disappointed at what’s happened with the pickleball situation,” Wall said.

“We have decided to support the pickleball club with a \$1,000 donation to help them through their current challenging times and hope that there is an amicable solution for everyone for the future.”

Typically with donations, he said the association “follows the town’s lead” on

projects. He said “hypothetically” noise barriers for the pickleball clubs could fall under the group’s mandate to support sports and recreation.

“We’re not leading the organization or making decisions for the town. We’re just there to support the sports community wherever we can,” Wall said.

“Unfortunately there was some obvious issues with lineups and rides and some things that we dealt with that were a little bit frustrating,” he said.

He said the ride company Albion Amusements Inc. refunded some ride bracelets or provided coupons for next year for people who were particularly disgruntled.

As far as next year’s stampede goes, he said they’re looking at ways to make it bigger and better and to overcome some of this year’s challenges.

One thing the group is looking into is a bigger, “much more enhanced” skateboard and bike contest and demonstration.

Volunteers can become ‘community scientists’

Continued from Front Page

cleanups and monitoring, I and the community forming around Keeping it Green have identified several threats to the shoreline environment.

The water-access staircase was removed many years ago, likely due to ongoing, rapid erosion of the cliffs overlooking the water. The proximity of the beach to the nearby sewage treatment facility, as well as local combined sewer overflows, are also of concern for water quality.

Over the past few years, we collected and documented a large amount of plastic litter at Niagara Shores, most of which was related to sewage waste: Q-tips, tampon applicators and insulin needles. “These are indicators of sewage pollution,” says Tessa Anderson, a water science and communications specialist for Niagara Coastal.

“Typically, these are things that are flushed down a toilet and make their way onto shorelines when untreated or partially treated sewage overflows, often during storms,” she says.

It’s best to avoid swimming in the lake 24 to 48 hours after rainfall, because these overflows can cause elevated bacterial levels.

“Every Wednesday, our staff go out with volunteer community scientists to collect five water samples at the beach to look for E. coli bacteria,” says Anderson.

E. coli can cause gastrointestinal problems, skin and eye irritation, and can indicate the presence of other harmful compounds in water.

They bring samples back to the lab at Niagara College, “process them over 24 hours, and share those results with the public every Thursday on Swim Guide,” says Anderson.

The Swim Guide is a free app and website, run by

Swim Drink Fish, where people can look up water quality at local beaches and make informed decisions for their own recreation.

The sampling is funded by the Niagara Community Foundation, which allows Niagara Coastal and Niagara College to monitor locations across Lake Erie and Lake Ontario for recreational water quality. Keeping tabs on these conditions truly is the first step toward improving the Niagara Shores beach environment.

A few years ago, an ongoing issue with E. coli at Queen’s Royal Park was discovered through a similar monitoring program. By checking the beach conditions regularly, the problem was discovered, addressed and drastically improved.

Locals who are keen to protect the beloved Niagara Shores beach can volunteer as community scientists by signing up to help with water sampling at niagaraCoastal.ca.


Volunteers can also submit visual surveys through Niagara Coastal’s VAST tool, which simply involves taking photos and making observations while you visit Niagara Shores. These help to track issues like erosion, algae blooms and plastic pollution, and how they change over time.

This growing collection of data will allow coastal managers, like the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and Environment Canada, to make informed decisions about protecting and restoring our shorelines.

And as concerned members of the community, we can be directly involved in making this happen.

Kyra Simone is a PhD student in environmental science, with master’s degrees in biology and science communication. When not researching climate change, she advocates for a sustainable future, picks up litter, and makes recycled jewelry.

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

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 56

Region active cases: 365

Region deaths: 566

Region total cases: 41,703

**June 29 data per Niagara Region Public Health.*

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



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face."
- Victor Hugo.

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Have a lead on a story?

Call 905.359.2270 or send an email to editor@niagaranow.com

Piping down the sun



Allan Spencer from the City of Thorold Pipe Band performs on the bagpipes at Ryerson Park, while the sun makes its descent on June 22. RICHARD HARLEY

Editorial

Big cakes, big gestures, big impacts

Richard Harley
Editor-In-Chief

It's Canada Day again. This year we can finally reunite for some of our beloved traditions, like the activities at Fort George and the Rotary Club's events at Simcoe Park.

And, of course, the now famous Cake Parade, which sees an approximately 1,000-pound cake wheeled into the park to be sliced up for all to share.

The cake is generously donated by Niagara-on-the-Lake's Willow Cakes and Pastries every year. Owner Catherine O'Donnell and her team spend up to 400 hours creating the mammoth dessert, which feeds hundreds of people.

Yum.

Every year there is a new Canadian-inspired theme that's kept top secret until the event. We can't wait to see this year's creation.

We suspect (and hope) there might be an orange theme to it this year.

Over at the fort there are free tours all day, food trucks in the afternoon and a dazzling fireworks display at night.

These types of events, and the generosity of the people who contribute to and organize them, are among the things that make NOTL so special.

They're the types of events that have kids counting the days to the long weekend and parents booking days off long in advance to make sure they don't miss the fun.

It's the type of fun that sends a ripple effect down the whole street, so that even workers looking out of shop windows have a smile on their face.

So this week, we want to give major kudos to everyone involved in bringing back NOTL's Canada Day party.

Two years off didn't slow you down, though it could have, and we appreciate you helping us get back to the NOTL we know and love.

Kudos to O'Donnell and her team. Kudos to Rotary's volunteers for planning fun, free celebrations all day. Kudos to Parks Canada and the Friends of Fort George for bringing back the fireworks and opening Fort George to all.

Kudos also to the Pump-house, which will host a

scavenger hunt around town.

It's easy to forget, when things are normal, just how lucky we are.

If we look, one thing we can make sure we take with us from the last two years is to not take anything for granted. Let's remember how good we have it in the good times.

Over in Ukraine, people will be dealing with war July 1, while we eat cake and hot dogs.

A sharp contrast.

So while you're out on Canada Day, say thanks to someone who helped out with the party.

These days when we can get together and celebrate have a big impact on us all. So let's celebrate the people who make it all happen.

editor@niagaranow.com

Disappointed in 'Pickleball Karen' poem

Dear editor:

I'm extremely disappointed that The Lake Report chose to print the poem entitled Pickleball Karen in the June 23, 2022 issue.

While I don't agree with

the court's decision to shut the pickleball courts for two years and I don't support the complaint or the person who filed the complaint, I think people in town have made it very clear how they

feel about the woman who filed the complaint. This poem is totally unnecessary and in my view is a form of bullying.

Janice White
NOTL



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Marching backward on heritage protection



ARCHITEXT

Brian Marshall
Columnist

Way back in 1972, UNESCO published the World Heritage Convention. This document called on countries around the world to not only protect built-heritage, but to also give “heritage a function in the life of the community.”

Among its far-reaching list of recommendations for inclusion in heritage legislation is one given special emphasis, which is to institute “financial measures” for “rehabilitation” (typically in the form of tax credits).

In fairly short order, all of the G7 countries had become signatories to the Convention. Canada signed on in 1976 but to date remains the only G7 nation whose heritage legislation neither protects built-heritage nor endorses their reuse.

That’s right folks, the federal Historic Sites and Monuments Act offers no

protection to designated national historic sites. It simply “commemorates” them.

Ontario’s provincial legislation (Ontario Heritage Act) is a toothless tiger and kicks most of the responsibility for oversight and enforcement down onto the municipalities. And realistically how big a stick can municipalities wield when their primary source of revenue (property tax) needs to be devoted to the maintenance of aging infrastructure?

So how does this compare to other countries in the G7?

The United Kingdom’s “Town and Country Planning Act” establishes an over-arching protection for built-heritage. This is implemented through the “Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990,” the “National Planning Policy Framework” and various other pieces of legislation. Further, there’s an extensive list of tax measures which have been instituted to support these properties.

American legislators have gone even further. The U.S. Historic Preservation Act, passed to ensure the “preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities of national significance,” is supported by at least 27 other laws protecting their

built-heritage. Incentivizing rehabilitation of historic income properties is a 20 per cent tax credit (amongst others) and their “Public Buildings Cooperative Use Act” requires that first option on federal leases be given to heritage properties.

Meanwhile, here in Canada, not only does our built-heritage lack proper protection but, our federal tax system (which has not changed in this regard since the 1940s) actually encourages demolition through a series of lucrative tax advantages which incentivize the replacement of old buildings with new. This federally generated bias has, in many cases, been adopted by other levels of government.

The problem with this type of bias within the ossified government bureaucratic mindset is that it becomes the perpetuated measured norm.

Consider the fact that if one builds new housing that adds to Canada’s housing stock there is a GST rebate. However, if one creates new housing within an existing residential building (like a basement apartment) the rebate doesn’t apply. Or, the “substantial” renovation GST rebate available only if the “renovation” removes a minimum 90 per cent of the building’s non-structural elements.

What a challenge for builders who might otherwise engage in adaptive reuse of existing (historic) buildings!

Our country’s governments are stuck in the internationally repudiated (e.g. Brundtland Report, 1987) philosophy of planned obsolescence vis-à-vis our existing national building stock and our politicians’ sustainability rhetoric is simply politically correct smoke and mirrors.

In a sad way it’s fascinating to note that the renovation/rehabilitation/reuse of existing buildings contributes more than \$120 billion annual to Canada’s GDP, completely eclipsing the revenues of new construction. Apparently, simple economics cannot effect change on the government level?

Provincially, our recently elected government has stated its intention to move forward with recommendations contained within the Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force report; many of which would gut what little protection our built-heritage is currently afforded to follow a failed model.

Canada has been left behind in the global theatre in this regard and our government seems determined to march steadily backward.

Hotel tax should apply to all accommodations

Dear editor:

I read last week’s article (The Lake Report, June 23) regarding the hotel tax to be implemented on July 1.

This tax is deeply unfair. Only accommodations with five rooms or more are to pay it. The other 286 short-term rentals are not required to charge it (for now). Why is it only the accommodation industry is responsible for promoting tourism and not all the other businesses that benefit, such as restaurants, retail, the Shaw, the golf course and wineries?

As I predicted a few months ago, the town is planning to hire another employee to “manage the levy” at a salary of \$70,000 a year. As it is predicted town revenue will be around

\$500,000 — this means 20 per cent of that money is gone off the top.

The other option is to have a third party company manage the tax. Obviously this would cost more and again impact the amount of money the town gets. The way this council has no hesitation to spend money, I wouldn’t be surprised to see them go the more expensive route.

How will this be policed? The last I heard the accommodation providers would be responsible to report how many rooms they rented. Will the town be allowed to peruse the records of these businesses? Not sure they legally can. While they can come in to check fire issues or room issues I am not sure

they have the legal right to look at the “books.”

The town right now can’t seem to police short-term rentals that rent more rooms than they are licensed for or don’t even have a licence. In this situation the town went the route of a third party to look after this aspect. To actually police this will more staff have to be hired

Does this mean more \$70,000 salaries?

How will the money for tourism promotion be spent? How will the effect of this spending be measured? Do we need to increase the number of visitors to town? Do we have the accommodations to handle any increase?

How will the money the town receives be spent?

According to the article, the only thought to spend the money was a donation to the museum. So we are raising money that we don’t even know what we will spend it on.

This town council has no problem spending our tax dollars instead of cutting back on non-essential services and spending money wisely. For most of us, we watch our expenses so that we don’t spend more than we have coming in. Should that also not apply to council?

Can’t wait to see what new tax this council comes up with to cover their mismanagement of the town budget.

Doug Johnson
NOTL

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Happy Canada Day!

Wayne Gates
MPP Niagara Falls Riding

905-357-0681 · wgates-co@ndp.on.ca



Have an opinion you want heard?

Send a letter to the editor to
editor@niagaranow.com

Happy Canada Day!
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making our mark
NIAGARA
OFFICIAL PLAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION

The Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara adopted the Niagara Official Plan under Section 17(22) of the *Planning Act, 1990* on June 23, 2022 by By-law No. 2022-47. Once the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing approves the Niagara Official Plan, it will come in to force and effect, replacing the existing Regional Official Plan.

The new Niagara Official Plan was prepared pursuant to Section 26 of the *Planning Act, 1990* to comprehensively apply provincial policy and plans, while also addressing Regional priorities and providing direction for local community planning.

This notice of adoption is issued pursuant to Section 17(23) of the *Planning Act, 1990*.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

The Niagara Official Plan is a long-term land use planning document that shapes and defines our community to the year 2051, with policies that set out what we protect, where and how the region will grow, and policy tools for success. The plan addresses matters such as protection of the natural environment, agriculture, source water, aggregates and petroleum, and cultural heritage and archaeology. It establishes a regional urban structure to strategically manage growth, and facilitates intensification, attainable and affordable housing, and identification of employment areas for protection. Tools such as district and secondary planning, subwatershed planning and urban design, along with supporting infrastructure and transportation systems, are important to growing sustainably and achieving complete and vibrant communities.

MORE INFORMATION

Information regarding the Niagara Official Plan is available in the Planning and Development Services Department at Niagara Region, 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON, L2V 4T7, Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. after July 4, 2022 and at niagararegion.ca/official-plan. Questions regarding the Niagara Official Plan may be directed to **David Heyworth, Manager of Long Range Planning**, by email at David.Heyworth@niagararegion.ca or phone at 905-980-6000 ext. 3476.

WRITTEN AND ORAL SUBMISSIONS

All statutory written and oral submissions made on the Niagara Official Plan have been reviewed and suggestions incorporated, where appropriate. For further information on how consultation on the proposed Niagara Official Plan for the public meeting was addressed, please refer to the relevant appendices in Information Report PDS 14-2022 and Recommendation Report PDS 17-2022 on the Niagara Official Plan website noted above.

RIGHT TO APPEAL – 2022

The decision of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara to adopt the Niagara Official Plan is not subject to appeal.

APPROVAL AUTHORITY

Under Section 17(1) of the *Planning Act, 1990*, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is the approval authority for the Niagara Official Plan adopted under Section 17(22) of the *Planning Act, 1990*. The adopted Official Plan will be forwarded to the Minister as required by Section 17(31) of the *Planning Act, 1990* for a decision.

Any person or public body will be entitled to receive notice of the decision from the approval authority if a written request is made. Requests to be notified of the decision should be sent by mail to:

Regional Director, Central Region
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 13th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3

Tel: 416-585-7041
Fax: 416-585-6882

Dated this 30th day of June 2022.



Seniors were happy to be back in-person at the Strawberry Social on Monday. MOLLY BOWRON

Strawberry Social a bit of pandemic relief

Molly Bowron
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's annual Strawberry Social was back in-person on Monday at the NOTL Community Centre, for the first time in two years.

The social afternoon, which honours Ontario's Seniors Month in June, invites all NOTL residents aged 65 and up to come out, have lunch and enjoy fresh strawberries.

Because the risk of COVID-19 isn't completely

gone, the event also had a pick-up option this year. Last year it was pick-up only.

"This is the first hybrid event, so we had in-person and pick up," said Marah Minor, communications co-ordinator for the Town of NOTL.

With the pandemic and not being able to have the in-person social last year, Minor said it's good to be back out face-to-face for those who feel up to it.

"It's just a (good) time. We have lunch, trivia and

it's just about community — and we are really excited to be back."

Among the volunteers helping out with the event was candidate for lord mayor Gary Zalepa. He also said it's nice to see seniors in the community being able to come out and socialize with some fresh strawberries.

"Putting people together, thanking people in the community and enjoying the fact that we have a community that's tight and people know each other I

think that's what makes a small town so special," said Zalepa.

NOTL resident Caroll Fanning said it was nice to be out without masks on.

"We can see each other smile and I think that's the nicest thing," she said.

St. Davids resident Anne Aurandt, who was enjoying the strawberries and company, echoed the sentiments of the others, that it was just nice to socialize and "to meet all these people and see what's going on in the town."



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Let's make NOTL the **love capital**. Smile at a visitor



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
Columnist
The Lake Report

Laughter has no accent. After the final match of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club's mixed doubles tournament last Saturday, I rode my bike downtown to have a double-scoop ice cream cone from the Stagecoach. Maple Walnut this time. Still less than five Canadian dollars, with the local discount.

This has been my personal tradition after each tennis tournament for about twenty years.

A great way to unwind, to let the tension drain away and just watch the world walk by on the sidewalks of our wonderful little Canadian town. It was crowded and our wide main street was busy with cars and motorcycles. Some very loud and macho, enjoying a day's ride around Niagara. Or a quick trip to the liquor store.

Once again, the flowers are planted and I defy anyone to find a more beautiful setting. I found half of a bench to myself amidst the foliage and watched and wondered.

Where was everyone from? How did they find their ways to NOTL? For a day trip or as part of vacation? So many accents, so many clothing styles, so many happy faces. Parents loving their parents and their children, some people keeping to themselves, others smiling hello.

They walk, saunter, stroll, amble and trek. What no one does is stride or hurry.



Two visitors to NOTL last weekend enjoy the friendliness of other lucky people in Old Town. ROSS ROBINSON

Our Queen Street seems to encourage people to slow down and smell the flowers. Just wondering, if Queen E kicks the bucket, do we have to change its name to King Street? What's the inevitable protocol?

Anyway.

It was a hot afternoon, so before I finished licking the first scoop, I had to continuously use a paper napkin to keep the fingers on my cone holding hand clean.

No stereotypes about age, clothing style or skin. Just someone to smile at while slobbering and drooling (them, not me).

They haven't learned to read all the negative signs on the store windows and doors. "No this, no that, no outside food or drink. No dogs, no mask — no entry."

They aren't too concerned about the dozen or so rules and regulations posted at Simcoe and Queen's Royal Park. But really, is anyone?

And finally, after a two year hiatus, I rambled over to another Pride parade in Toronto.

A short drive to Burlington, the GO train, four stops on the Yonge North subway and into the exuberant pandemonium of our new world. Colourfully coloured clothing, sometimes very little of it on the parade walkers and handmade signs that each year bring a tear to my eye.

During the ongoing global deadly pandemic, there

were very few masks and no physical distancing.

The respect and love saying, "We are all on this planet together. Let's get along and let loose."


My favourite signs in the parade this year were "Labels are for canned soups," and "A queer Ukraine is a free Ukraine," and "Love is too beautiful to hide in the closet."

Now I will ramble to a closing suggestion. This weekend, make it a point to smile more, even at strangers. If they smile back, maybe have a welcoming conversation. When people travel, most of them just love to chat with a local. Whether it be on a street or in a park, in a restaurant or in a pub.


Most travellers like to ask a local for a suggestion or a direction.

Show some love and friendship. It will usually be returned.

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Top left: A black swallow tail. Top right: A yellow swallow tail. Bottom from left: A black swallow tail chrysalis with a butterfly about to emerge. An eastern tiger swallow tail. An older black swallow tail caterpillar. A young black swallow tail caterpillar is about seven millimetres long. It will soon turn green and black. CHARLOTTE LETKEMANN PHOTOS

Out of the chrysalis: Butterfly Queen gives bugs a hand

Charlotte Letkemann
Special to The Lake Report

Butterfly season has begun.

I saw my first yellow swallowtail on June 6 at a funeral at a Niagara Falls cemetery. During the prayers and readings, it flew down onto the flowers on the casket and then flew off.

It returned, landing on the other side of the arrangement and then flew away. “How symbolic,” I thought.

About a week later, I was called by a friend who had seen a black swallowtail laying eggs on her parsley. She had found one tiny caterpillar and offered it to me.

At a week old it was just two millimetres long. Now I carefully check the leaves of all the parsley I have planted – mostly to attract these beauties. Other host plants include celery, dill, sweet fennel and caraway.

Young eggs are tiny yellow “balls” and turn brownish as they mature. Within a few days, the eggshells turn clear, but look black to the naked eye. That’s the colour of the wee caterpillar about to emerge.

When first born, the caterpillar will eat the eggshell and then begin to munch on its host plant.

Because these caterpillars are not necessarily as toxic to predators as the monarch caterpillars, they have other defences. The younger stages (instars) disguise themselves by looking like bird droppings. They are knobby and black with a white ring around their middles.

Last year, while on a walk, I spotted a black swallowtail laying eggs on some Queen Anne’s Lace – wildflowers that neighbours had encouraged to grow on their boulevard (instead of grass like all their neighbours).

Trying to remember which flowers the butterfly had landed on was a challenge. However, I picked those I thought it had visited and brought the small bouquet home with me.

I placed it into a vase and hoped I’d chosen at least one with an egg on the bloom. About 10 days later, I finally noticed a little caterpillar and then found several more that had hatched. The eggs and the

wee newborns were so tiny that I had not seen them.

Eventually, after one of the little caterpillars shed its skin, it developed its beautiful colouring underneath.

“Note that the butterfly caterpillars do not spin cocoons like moth caterpillars do. That is why they are called a chrysalis, not a cocoon at this stage.”

CHARLOTTE LETKEMANN

During its final stages, the caterpillar is smooth and beautiful. It can be black, green or yellow with striped, dotted segments.

Older caterpillars look nothing like the younger ones, but they still have a special defence to ward off predators. When disturbed, they rear their heads and exude yellow horn-like protrusions called “osmeteria.” This is called a “startle defence” as it frightens

predators into looking for a meal elsewhere.

At this stage, the caterpillars are absolutely voracious. I had to be sure to put lots of parsley in the large pickle jar where I was keeping these beauties. And, so they wouldn’t escape, I covered the jar with nylon net.

After a couple of weeks, the caterpillars search for a place to pupate. They will move around until they attach themselves in a vertical or horizontal position somewhere to a branch or other appropriate spot.

Because I want to keep an eye on them, I place a small branch into the jar. They attach themselves to the branch by a “thread” that forms a “seatbelt” so it can lean back and begin to change shape. Fresh pupae can still startle predators by jerking around in their pupal case if disturbed.

One caterpillar attached itself to a thick parsley stem. Its pupa (chrysalis) was green while the others that attached themselves to the branch were the colour of the bark.

Note that the butterfly caterpillars do not spin cocoons like moth caterpillars do. That is why they are called a chrysalis, not a cocoon at this stage.

After about two weeks, the adult butterfly will emerge for the chrysalis. Unlike the monarch, its chrysalis does not change colour and it’s hard to tell just when the butterfly will emerge.

Last year I had taken two chrysalises along to a one-hour appointment – just in case they decided to come out while I was away.

Nothing happened while I was there, so I took the jar back to the car, stopped briefly to pick up something and when I got back into the car after less than 10 minutes, there were two beautiful butterflies on the twigs in the jar.

However, as they can’t fly at this stage, I was able to drive home. Our neighbours were quite surprised to see me come out of the car with the sticks from which the butterflies were hanging.

Outdoors, you may find adult swallowtails sipping nectar from red clover, zin-

nias and thistles.

Not all butterflies will emerge during the summer. The ones that have hatched later in the season will overwinter here.

When I had some of the later ones, after they had gone into chrysalis form, I put my jar outside in a safe place and started checking them in May.

One day I noticed each of the chrysalises had opened and the butterflies were gone. I hope they found mates and made others as happy as I was when I saw them change from one stage to another.

Last year one caterpillar escaped and I couldn’t find it anywhere in the house. One day it hatched and came crawling out from behind the fridge in our kitchen.

Unfortunately, one of the wings had bent as it tried to leave its tight space.

However, I was able to lift it carefully when it crawled onto my finger, took it outside and placed it onto my butterfly bush to feed. I don’t know what happened to that one as I didn’t see it fly away.

Signs of trouble: Town removes farmer's roadside ads

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A small sign along an empty road shoulder can make a big difference.

For years, White Orchard Farms' owner David White has seen a big impact from a little sign he puts out daily. All it says is "Strawberries" with a small arrow pointing in the direction of his farm.

One June 10, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake removed the sign, saying it was a safety hazard for motorists on York Road.

"We never complain. We're paying our taxes, we're paying everything else. Just help us promote with a sign. That sign means the world," White said in an interview.

Every morning White grabs a small foldable sign and takes it out to York Road. He said he puts it on the shoulder at 9 a.m. and takes it in at 5 p.m.

For an out-of-the-way farming operation like White's, that roadside attraction is one of his few means of drawing in customers daily.

White Orchard sits at the very end of a dead-end on Line 8 Road. No one ever drives by unless they are already heading to White's operation for his produce and other goods.

"We're off the grid. We have no way to promote," said White.

He said the difference in foot traffic at their farm is noticeable without the York Road sign.

"We went from selling (108 quarts) of strawberries every two or three days down to three quarts," White said.



White Orchard Farms owner Dave White wants to work with the town to figure out how he can advertise for his out of the way farm on roads or private land. EVAN SAUNDERS

NOTL's sign bylaw places sweeping restrictions on sign usage around town.

However, the bylaw also states that the town recognizes "the commercial communication requirements of all sectors of the business community."

Wording like this may lead people to believe the town would be open to working with White to come to some form of compromise that lets the farmer advertise his honey, garlic, strawberries and other NOTL-grown produce.

But so far, White said, no one from the municipality has reached out about the York Road sign situation. They just scooped it up and took it. And he says he will just keep putting one out until someone from the town takes the time to speak with him.

In an email, town staff said they took down the sign in response to a complaint. "A concern was made to the town about a sign impeding traffic sightlines," town spokesperson Marah Minor said in an email.

"After this inquiry was received, a town bylaw

enforcement officer was dispatched to investigate the sign. The bylaw officer found that the strawberry sign was on town property and in violation of the town's sign bylaw," she said.

"There were also minor sightline issues which posed a risk to public safety. Therefore, the sign was removed."

Minor said the sign was removed prior to consultation with White because it was considered a safety issue.

"Typically the town attempts to educate first. However, due to the safety concern in this circumstance, the sign was removed immediately."

White learned from a neighbour that the town grabbed his sign on York Road. So, he trekked to the bylaw enforcement department at the town hall and dutifully paid a \$75 fee to retrieve it.

This game of cat-and-mouse has been going on for several years with a sign White previously set up at the corner of Concession 7 and Line 8.

The town removed the sign twice.

The first time it was taken, White assumed it was because the sign was not up to town standards.

After that, White says he spent about \$3,000 getting the land surveyed and upgrading the sign to avoid any problems.

Adding to his frustrations, he even had the Concession 7 and Line 8 sign installed on private property with written permission from the landowner.

"Two weeks later my customers are calling me, 'Dave, your sign has been taken by the town,'" he said.

Both times the sign was taken White says the town never reached out to him.

It was only after he went down to town hall himself that bylaw officers told him he isn't allowed to erect a sign on third-party property, White said.

In response to issues about his Line 8 and Concession 7 sign, White has now installed it on his own property, something the bylaw permits.

But the only people who see it are those already

driving all the way to White Orchard.

The York Road sign squabble is new, even though the sign is old.

"It's been there for six years. Never a problem and now they just start taking it down," he said.

"And it's not like it's a sign stuck on a pole somewhere. It's out in the morning and it's back in at night."

White said the sign has been left alone ever since The Lake Report inquired about the issue with the town.

As a farmer who only sells fresh NOTL-grown produce for cash, he said there should be a way for him to work with the town to try to attract customers.

But the lack of communication or willingness to have a conversation has led to feelings that the town does not care about small operations like the White family's.

"Work with me. The town will not work with the small farmers," he said.

"We have no water — we have a cistern — we have no sewage. We pay our taxes. We don't complain."

As of June 28, White said he has not received any communication from the town about the sign.

This isn't a political issue for him and he doesn't blame the current council or mayor for the sign bylaw, he said.

But he does hope he and the town can reach an amicable solution.

White said he strives to be a good community member in NOTL and only wants to be treated the same way by town officials.

He cited an incident from

several weeks ago.

"Somebody was driving down Concession 7, they had just adopted a dog and the dog jumped out the window," he said.

"We shut down the farm and the family took our ATVs and we all went out looking for the dog."

"That's the kind of family we are. We don't want trouble. We just want (the town) to work with us."

"I want to work with the town, I want to work with them but they are just like, 'Nope. That's the way it is.'"

Minor said the town is always willing to work with residents "to come up with a solution that is agreeable to both parties."

White, who has owned the farm for about eight years, said "People love (NOTL farms). It's what makes this town Niagara-on-the-Lake."

"It bothers me that Niagara-on-the-Lake doesn't want to be Niagara-on-the-Lake."

He said White Orchard is his and wife Tracey's retirement plan.

"This is our future. The town looks at us as being just another person but we have nothing (without this farm)."

"It's all we got and it's all we want to do," White said.

White was enthusiastic about all the natural products he produces at White Orchard. He also produces fresh honey and recently bought eight new beehives for his apiary.

"The blueberries are going in, the apple trees are going in. We've got garlic in the back and we've got more garlic fields going in," he said.

He just wants people to be able to find his farm so he can sell his produce.


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 **CANADA DAY Calendar**
1 JUL NOTL Arts Collective Scavenger Hunt
10 am - 5 pm, member galleries + mystery spot
Learn more by visiting : notlartscollective.ca
3 JUL Artist Meet & Greet : Old & New
Solo Exhibition by Robert Crosby
2 - 4 pm, Joyner Gallery
Show runs through July 26th
247 Ricardo St., NOTL ♦ niagarapumphouse.ca
Hours: July 1: 10 am - 5 pm, July 2 & 3: 11 am - 4 pm

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Top Gun: Dreams of a high-flying career

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



Air cadet Shay Vidal is looking at a future as a commercial or military pilot. EVAN SAUNDERS

Air cadet Shay Vidal has some high-flying dreams. Being a member of Niagara-on-the-Lake's 809 Newark Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron has shaped Vidal's future.

"It's the best program I've joined in my whole life," 17-year-old Shay says.

"It's offered me countless memorable experiences and I've met some of my best friends in this program."

And now, after five years as a cadet, Vidal is getting ready to pursue a career as a pilot.

"I'm looking at Royal Military College or if I don't choose to go the military route I'm thinking Waterloo, Moncton or Mohawk (among other options)," he said.

Shay said his experience in the cadets has not only helped him discover a passion for aviation and determine a career path but also given him invaluable skills.

"The biggest thing is leadership. I've learned how to be a leader and just to be dedicated overall to the program," he said.

"It's given me a great work ethic, (taught me) how to work with people and how to lead others," he said.

But the focus on aviation has truly changed the young man's life.

"I've learned more about piloting and aviation than I could have ever dreamed. It's helped me tremendously in my goal to become a pilot."

The robust education and lessons he has received in the program made a big difference, he said.

"I've taken away more from this program than I've taken away from my entire high school career."

A love for aviation runs deep within the cadet crew. A few weeks ago, the entire squadron went out to see the new "Top Gun: Maverick" film together.

"We went to the pre-screening," Shay said enthusiastically.

"It was a great film. The second half was a love letter to planes, to aviation."

Shay was with one of his fellow cadets, several friends and some parents at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 for the recent Cadet Bottle Drive.

"The bottle drive cov-

ers a lot of (the cadets') expenses," parent Christine Lett said.

This year's bottle drive netted more than \$2,500 for the program, said chair Cory Abt.

The bottle drives have been particularly important this year as the cadets get to return to normal training after summers disrupted by the pandemic.

"The guys haven't had a normal experience in the last two years. They've missed a lot of the hands-on stuff," said Lett.

Among other things the fundraiser will help cover hands-on training this summer and provide the money for learning materials, such

as the parts to build model planes.

But it hasn't all been book learning and engineering lessons for the cadets. The organization ensures they have fun as well.

They recently spent a free day at Canada's Wonderland, which hosts a Cadet Day every year.

"We just wanted to let them have fun," Lett said.

Meanwhile, the squadron collected several truckloads of bottles at collection stations across NOTL to help cadets make their high-flying dreams a reality. The next bottle drive will be in September, after the Labour Day weekend.



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

Last issue: Three playing cards in a row. Can you name them with these clues? There is a two to the right of a king. A diamond will be found to the left of a spade. An ace is to the left of a heart. A heart is to the left of a spade. Now, identify all three cards.

Answer: Ace of diamonds, king of hearts, two of spades

Answered first by: Mary Drost

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Howard Jones, Leanne Leach, Becky Creager, Mary Ann Enns, Terry Nord, Susan Hamilton, David Steele, Beverley Easthope, Bert Dandy, Alison Lloyd-Davies, Jane Morris, Sylvia Wiens, Patricia Fraser, Sheila Meloche, Wade Durling, Shani Waller, Dennis Blake

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

Love games? Join us for music trivia "Name That Tune with Lee" every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the Irish Harp Pub. Details at www.theirishharppub.com

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FEATURED



Notice of Study Completion Transportation Master Plan – Communities on the Move

In March 2020, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake initiated a Transportation Master Plan (TMP) study. A Transportation Master Plan (TMP) is intended to serve as a long-range strategic plan for Niagara-on-the-Lake to identify transportation infrastructure requirements that address existing challenges and support growth, along with policies to guide transportation and land-use decisions.

The study identified the Town's transportation needs and opportunities through the year 2031 and recommended multi-modal operational, design, and transportation policies for the Town. Recommendations from the Transportation Master Plan will enhance connectivity between transportation modes to move people sustainably, efficiently, and safely while reducing reliance upon any single mode of transportation.

Prior to the finalization of the TMP and approval by Town Council, members of the public are invited to contribute feedback.

The Process

The Niagara-on-the-Lake TMP study was undertaken in accordance with the Master Planning process of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Municipal Engineers Association, 2000 as amended) (Class EA), which is an approved process under Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act. The EA process includes public engagement and consultation. The TMP provides the framework for future projects that may require further detailed studies under the Municipal Class EA.

To learn more about the process undertaken, please visit <https://www.jointheconversationnotl.org/TransportationMasterPlan>.

Notice of Review Period

A draft TMP Report, which outlines the study's outcome, has been prepared and is now ready for public review and consultation. This notice announces the start of the 30-day calendar review period for the TMP in accordance with the requirements of the EA process.

Public consultation is a key component of this process, and the Town wants to hear from you. The draft TMP Report will be available for review from June 30 to August 1, 2022, online at <https://www.jointheconversationnotl.org/TransportationMasterPlan>.

Members of the public are invited to review the Report and provide comments by August 1, 2022, on the Join the Conversation link noted above. Comments received help to inform and determine the final stages of the project and will become part of the public record of the study, except for personal information.

In August 2022, Council, having not yet approved or endorsed the Report, will be presented with the final draft Report and a summary of the comments received during the 30-day review period.

Mike Komljenovic
Engineering Supervisor,
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
Phone: 905-468-3061
1593 Four Mile Creek Road,
PO Box 100,
Virgil ON L0S 1T0

Arash Mirhoseini, M.Sc.,PMP
Project Manager,
Stantec Consulting Ltd.
300-675 Cochrane Drive West
Toronto ON L3R 0B8

Please contact the study team members listed above if you have any accessibility requirements or questions.

This notice was first issued on June 30, 2022.



The cake parade will roll down Queen Street at 3 p.m. Friday. FILE PHOTO

What's on for Canada Day?

Rotary celebrations at Simcoe Park

8:30 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast at Simcoe Park
Pancake Breakfast | 8 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Barbecue | 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Cake parade | 3 p.m.
Kids activities | All afternoon
Live entertainment | All afternoon

Fort George celebrations

Free Tours | 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Food Trucks! | 4 p.m.
Historical Presentations | 6:30 p.m.
Live Music | On stage
Fireworks Display | 10 p.m.

Scavenger Hunt at the Pumphouse

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Arts Collective will host a Canada Day Scavenger Hunt for chance to win prizes. Visit the member galleries on July 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to find the answers to the questions on the entry form and learn about NOTL's visual arts.

Canada Day 5K race

9 a.m. - Canada Day 5K race
(Not a free event)

Fireworks and fun at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery

An evening of drinks, barbecue-style food, live music and a big fireworks show! Attendance is free to the public. Donations will be taken to support the Indian Residential School Survivors Society. Cashless donations will also be accepted when entering this event. Please make your donation by visiting the GoFundMe page: Indian Residential School Survivors Society
Canada Day festivities | Begins at 5 p.m.
Fireworks | 10:15 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion barbecue (Branch 124)

Join the Legion for a barbecue and drinks with live entertainment by Under Cover and DJ Moose Mike. There will be prizes, raffles and games throughout the day.
Free admission | 12 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Pepperoni pizzas for Naiagara Regional Native Centre

Bricks and Barley in Virgil will be donating \$1 from every pizza sold July 1 to 3 to the Niagara Regional Native Centre, as a way to participate in truth and reconciliation.

What goes into a 1,000-pound Canada Day cake?

As one might expect, there are a lot of ingredients — and a lot of love. Here's the recipe for this year's Canada Day cake by Willow Cakes & Pastries. Don't miss the cake parade Friday at 3 p.m. on Queen Street.

75 kg rolled fondant
8 boxes rice crisp cereal
260 marshmallows
100 kg icing sugar
10 litres vegetable oil
2 kg baking powder
3 kg cocoa powder
Plus a whole lot of love.



750 eggs



6 flats of strawberries



20 kg sugar



20 kg chocolate



125 lb butter



20 litres of milk



150 kg flour



20 kg Oreo cookies



500 ml pure vanilla

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maged Elmadhoon, M.Eng., P.Eng.
Manager, Transportation Planning
Niagara Region
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way
Thorold, ON L2V 4T7
Phone: 905-980-6000, ext. 3583
maged.elmadhoon@niagararegion.ca

Phil Weber, M.Eng., P.Eng.
Senior Project Manager
CIMA+
500 – 5935 Airport Rd.
Mississauga, ON L4V 1W5
Phone: 905-695-1005, ext. 6732
phil.weber@cima.ca

Section 16 Order

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This notice was first issued on June 30, 2022.

Legion 124's Ladies Auxiliary returns with **Junk in the Trunk**

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

One person's junk in a trunk is another person's treasure in a trunk. Or, something like that.

The Ladies Auxiliary Junk in the Trunk sale saw the all female arm of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 return to glory after being stymied by the pandemic for two years.

"We work behind the lines of the branch and do stuff like this for ourselves. We do donations of, like, service dogs and things for the veterans as well," said Karen Taylor, secretary of the Ladies Auxiliary.

"We also help out with donations for the branch, depending on what they're doing."

23 vendors were set up in the parking lot of the Branch 124 on June 26, selling anything from playing card decks to tables and chairs.

"We've come here once before and we did very well," said Bill Brunton, NOTL resident for 70 years and a member of the Legion.



Betty Brunton holds up a 1965 rare troll toy she was selling for \$100 at the Legion's Ladies Auxiliary Junk in the Trunk event. EVAN SAUNDERS

"Her family is one of the original families. From the war of 1812, they had one of the original deeds in the township," Bill said of his wife, Betty Brunton, whose family name is Lutz.

Their booth had toys from the 1950s up until today. Some had been collected by choice and others were saved from their own children's childhoods.

But some of the items

were even from Betty's childhood.

"I had a doll collection and toys and I'm clearing out. Some were my kids'," Betty said.

They had a good collection of old army figures as well.

One thing's for sure, there is hardly a generation of young men gone by who doesn't have some form of fond memory of playing with army figures.

It merely took a mention of them to send Bill's memory flying back nearly 70 years.

"One of my best friends, when I was a kid, they were pretty wealthy. So, my little soldiers were all plastic and whatever. His were all made of metal, from England," said Bill.

"And he had a little cannon. We'd build up forts and stuff like that and he'd shoot matches over into mine and hit the rocks and they'd ignite and melt all my soldiers."

"I'd do it back to him — nothing, cause he had metal soldiers."

In response to a bystander saying "that sounds like a damn good time," Bill responded, "It was."

So many vendors in one place made the event an attraction for people who like to stop by at garage sales.

"I just thought it would be a good chance to one stop and get to see multiple different things," Danielle

Sider of Fort Erie said.

During the age of video games and streaming services, Sider was there to buy books for her teenage daughter.

"She wants books and she wants bookshelf decor because she changes her bookshelf up all the time. So, I guess that's what we're keeping our eye out for."

Some rain and chilly weather dampened the turnout for some of the vendors.

"We were hoping to be a bit busier. It's quiet," said Christi Mann.









Mann was there with her partner, Mike Strickland.

"We sold my house like a month ago. We had a massive garage sale and now we're downsizing his house. We're cleaning out and then we are going to donate the rest," Mann said.

The two were selling an assortment of items, from chairs, tables, to old Disney VHS' and a tape copy of the Titanic.

Strickland also had some hunting gear he was trying to sell.

"I've got turkey vests, a pop up blind, a lot of big full gear like winter stuff," he said.

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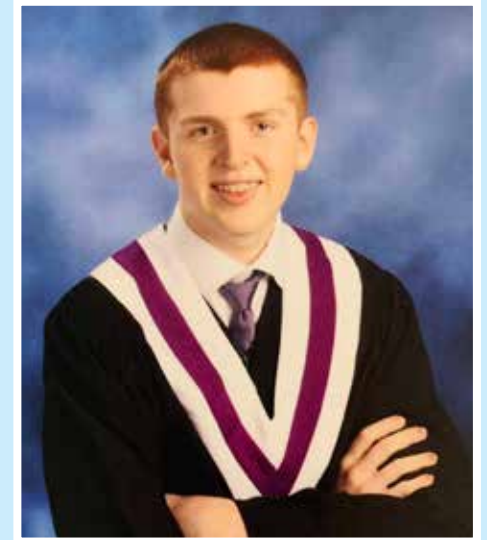


NICE WORK, GRADUATES!



Clockwise: Jessie Jones, Niagara College graduate, registered early childhood educator program, Luke Van Balen, Grade 8 graduate, St. Davids Public School, Aiden Harber, Grade 8 graduate, St. Davids Public School, Emma Currie, Niagara College graduate, primary care paramedics program, Paige Hoadley, Grade 12 graduate, A. N. Myer Secondary School, D'Arcy Davidson, Grade 12 graduate, Laura Secord Secondary School, Sydney Lament, Grade 12 graduate, A.N. Myer Secondary School, Sophie Cadeau, Grade 8 graduate, Dalewood French Immersion, Sawyer Hoadley, Grade 8 graduate, St. Davids Public School.

Congratulations to all of Niagara-on-the-Lake's graduates. Keep up the good work!



A huge CONGRATULATIONS to all of our local grads!

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Tennis club doubles tournament a sweltering success

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club hosted its mixed doubles tournament on June 25, a tradition going back to the 1970s and the earliest days of the club.

“The event was played last weekend in hot summer conditions and was thoroughly enjoyed by players and spectators alike,” said club president Hugh Dow.

“As is the case with all the club’s events, the tournament was infused with a spirit of camaraderie and friendship.”

Carmen Bowron and Gerry McIlhone won the A division championship game against Lynda Morley and Jerzy Gorski.

“It was McIlhone’s fourth time to capture the Donnelly Trophy,” said Dow.

Nicole Marsh-Burke and Ken McGilivray won the consolation honours.

And in the B division, Lake Report columnist Ross Robinson placed first along with Karen Rhind.

They “survived a very tight final match” against Amanda Thackray and her father Jim



Left: Karen Rhind and Ross Robinson (behind). Right top: Carmen Bowron. Right bottom: Rosemary Goodwin. SONJA SCHINDELER AND JOHANNE LAPORTE PHOTOS

Thackray, Dow said.

Robinson had previously won the Realty Trophy in 2015, Dow added.

Consolation honours for the B division went to Mary Towndrow and Peter Rider.

For Dow, the tournament was a chance for the club to display its inclusive and welcoming spirit.

“Players who are new to tennis, or new to Niagara-on-the-Lake, partnered others who are veterans of the game or longtime

residents,” he said.

Dow thanked the organizers for the tournament’s smooth operations.

“The weekend event was impeccably organized by two of the club’s board members, Marilyn Francis and Rosemary Goodwin, assisted by a team of very enthusiastic volunteer club members,” he said.

Dow said the tournament was scheduled earlier than usual this year due to a planned resurfacing of the

courts in time for the Canada Summer Games. There will be a competition each day from Aug. 7 through 13, with each province represented by a team of eight players,” he said.

“The local club is providing much of the volunteer power for the event and is hoping to create a very positive impression of our town with the players, coaches, officials, visitors, media and dignitaries who will assemble here.”



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Rotary Club of NOTL Pancake breakfast

11 am - 3 pm

Rotary Club of NOTL BBQ Lunch

11 am - 3 pm

Live music and kids entertainment!

QUEEN STREET

3 pm

The giant “Cake Parade” featuring the 41st Regiment Fife & Drum Corps which will accompany the cake back to Simcoe Park to be sliced and served at approx. 3:30 pm.

Cake donated by: Willow Cakes & Pastries

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Women's league players got dressed up in Canadian colours before Tuesday's game. RICHARD HARLEY

Women's leagues celebrate **Canada Day**

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

The 9- and 18-Hole NOTL Ladies League celebrated Canada Day a bit early with scramble golf game on Tuesday at the Niagara-on-the Lake Golf Club.

The weather was perfect, the games were fun and the camaraderie was wonderful, said Deborah Williams, the 9-hole league captain.

The winners of the day were: longest putt on #8: 9-hole, Trish Anthony; 18-hole, Margot Richardson; longest drive on #2: 9-hole, Suzanne Watson, 18-hole, Martha Cruikshank.

First prize winners on the day were: Marlene Sibbald, Valerie Chubey and Cathy Murray; second was the team of Suzanne Watson, Maureen Dickson, Marilyn Cochrane and Robin Foster; third were

Catherine Novick, Suzanne Rate, Lisa Allen and Marie Ellison.

The women also held a raffle and raised \$180 for Red Roof Retreat.

In Thursday men's league competition on June 23, Devon Neudorf won low gross with a 1-under 35. Gerry Shelly was tops in Stableford scoring, with 23 points.

Other winners were: Josh D'Agostino (longest drive

#3), Daryl Fry (senior (60+) long Drive #6), Shelly (closest to the pin #4) and Mike Eagen (closest on #9). Warren Tutton made the longest putt on #5.

Net skins were won by Noel Morris (#1), Joe Interisano (#5) and Ken Burr (#6). In gross skins, Neudorf scooped them on #2 and #3. Others went to Rick Janes (#1), Jim Meszaros (#4), Ricky Watson (#7) and Dan Regan (#9).

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Have some fun

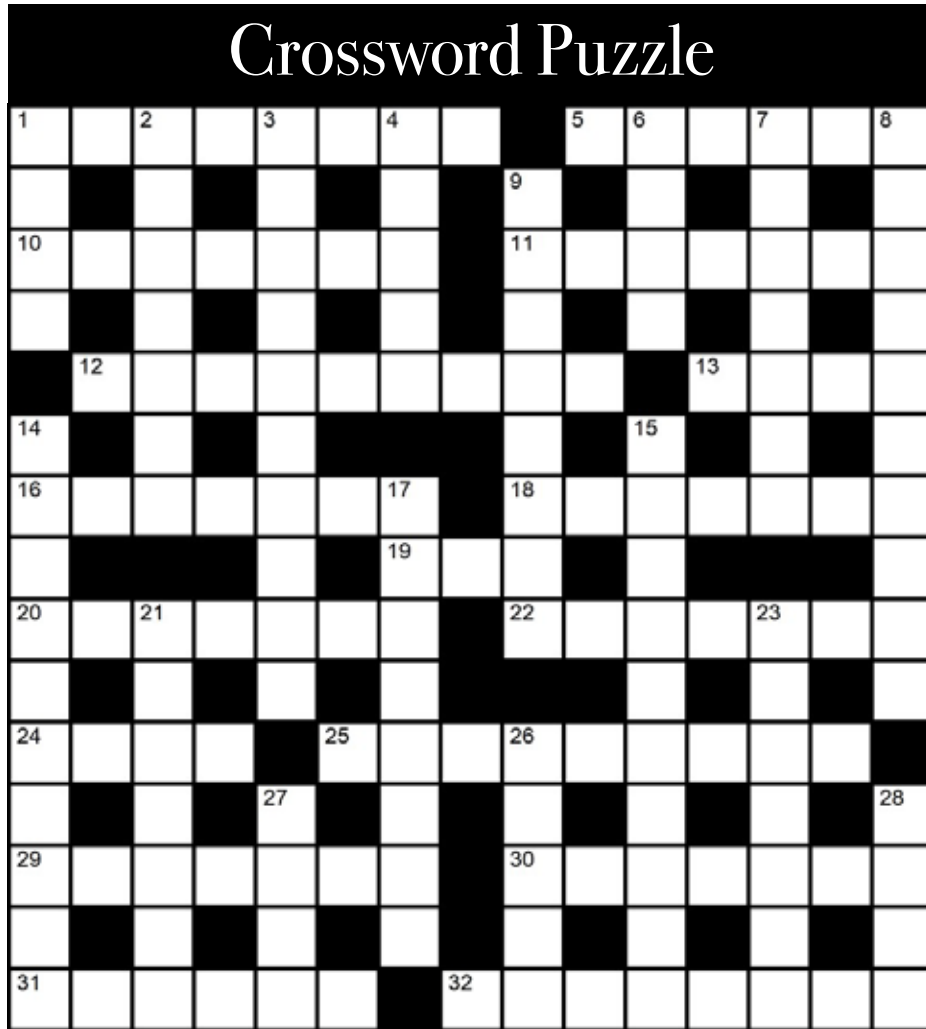


Across

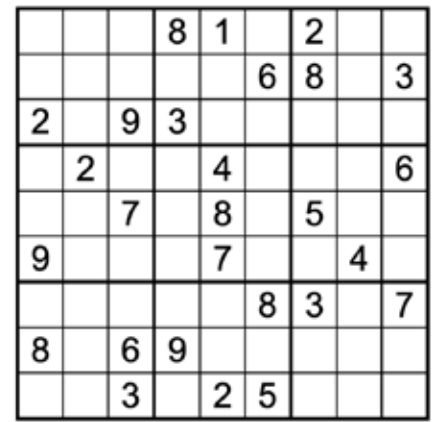
- 1. Injured one (8)
- 5. Mexican vacation destination (6)
- 10. Fencing moves (7)
- 11. Old pals' get-together (7)
- 12. To a small degree (9)
- 13. Blue dye (4)
- 16. Gets back (7)
- 18. Rare plants (7)
- 19. Amusingly ironic (3)
- 20. Generally (2,1,4)
- 22. Quite large (7)
- 24. Grape-skin brandy (4)
- 25. Travel schedule (9)
- 29. Impresario's goal? (4,3)
- 30. Lithuanian capital (7)
- 31. Heavy hammer (6)
- 32. In which Jud Fry dies (8)

Down

- 1. Intersects (4)
- 2. Rising suddenly (7)
- 3. Like a double rainbow, maybe (10)
- 4. Where the Owl and the Pussycat went (2,3)
- 6. Border (4)
- 7. Tuscan wine (7)
- 8. Bewildered about unsold pens (10)
- 9. Hospital conveyances (8)
- 14. Gym machines (10)
- 15. Neopolitan buffalo cheese (10)
- 17. Result of using 14 Down, perhaps (8)
- 21. Place in order (7)
- 23. Tortilla meal (7)
- 26. Kim ---, of "Vertigo" (5)
- 27. Poker-like card game (4)
- 28. 30% of the Earth's surface (4)



Last issue's answers



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Orange shirts and motorcycles honour survivors

Continued from Front Page

of the schools.

"I'm an inter-generational survivor. My grandmother attended Mush Hole (also known as the Mohawk Institute) in Brantford," Griffin said.

"They usually say it's seven generations so, hopefully, my children will never have to know what it was like to have that trauma."

"But I know because of my mother. So, hopefully I've broken that chain. It can be very, very difficult to break. It's just like an addiction."

TRAUMA AND RECKONING

The Mohawk Institute was the oldest continually operated residential school in Canada. It began operations in 1831 and closed in 1970. The school grounds will soon be the subject of a ground search for children's bodies.

For the ride last year, the institute was the final meeting place. Due to its impending ground search, organizers opted to have people meet at the Native Centre.



Members of Sovereign M.C and the Canadian Veteran Military Club at the Residential School Ride for Justice in Niagara-on-the-Lake on June 26. EVAN SAUNDERS

Combating the trauma of residential schools is essential for the longevity of Indigenous culture and also enables dialogue around the horrific legacy of Canada's systemic discrimination to take place, Griffin said.

She said it was great to see such a big crowd of people there in solidarity. "Seeing the bikes come in and seeing the support of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people is breathtaking and the fact that they feel the need to rally around," Griffin said.

"Which is good because that's how we're going to make it so things like this never happen again, right? And that's what we need

to do and that's why it's so important to Indigenous people to let other people know."

She said, despite the high profile discovery of 215 children's bodies on a residential school property in British Columbia last year, the narrative and truth of residential schools in Canada needs to be continuously publicly addressed.

"Like, 'Do you know what happened in your backyard?' A lot of people don't even know what's sitting in Brantford."

Griffin said Indigenous communities are preparing for horrific discoveries on the grounds of the Mohawk Institute.

"We know the numbers are going to be high. It's going to be very, very traumatic for the community when those numbers come out," she said.

"But at the same time this is something we need to do for those little bodies, those little people. Because they haven't been laid to rest properly."

She said that even if bodies are discovered, the tragedy remains that identification will be next to impossible.

"The families are never going to know. There's no way we can tell who they are, the only thing we can tell is they were male or female between this and that age."

"It is hard. It's hard to hear about it. But at the same time specifically for the parents, it needs to come out."

Last year around Canada Day, the Niagara Regional Native Centre's executive director Karl Dockstader said one of the hardest things for Indigenous people has been trying to convince skeptical Canadians that the horrors they always knew took place at residential schools were real.

In the year since Canada began its public reckoning with the history of the schools, Griffin said that challenge still exists.

"The sad thing is we're still coming into contact with people who don't believe it happened. 'It didn't happen,' or, 'that was way before my time.'"

"The last one closed in 1996. So, it wasn't that far in the past that it happened."

"Like with me, I'm just lucky that the Mohawk Institute closed in 1970. If I had been a couple years older, chances are I would have been sucked into it too."

Griffin has taken the responsibility on herself

to ensure her children do not grow up with any of the negativity residential schools tried to place on Indigenous children about their culture.

"As a mom, I've tried to teach my kids how to be empowered, how to have a voice. And that's extremely important because, as Indigenous, we have to have that voice. We have to be able to speak for those who can't speak."

Griffin said she hopes the Ride for Justice is an even bigger event next year.

"Maybe we can have other Indigenous centres doing the same type of thing in other areas or other provinces."

"That's what I would love to see."

Griffin is a motorcyclist herself and found the support from the community moving.

"The second and third round that came in, I was in tears. I was in absolute tears because it's just so touching that there can be this many people that support something like this," she said.

Griffin rides a 1984 Honda Shadow.

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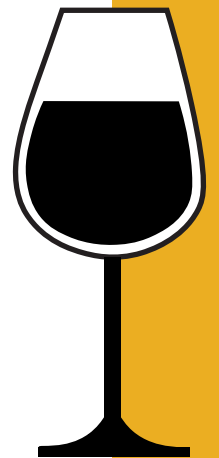
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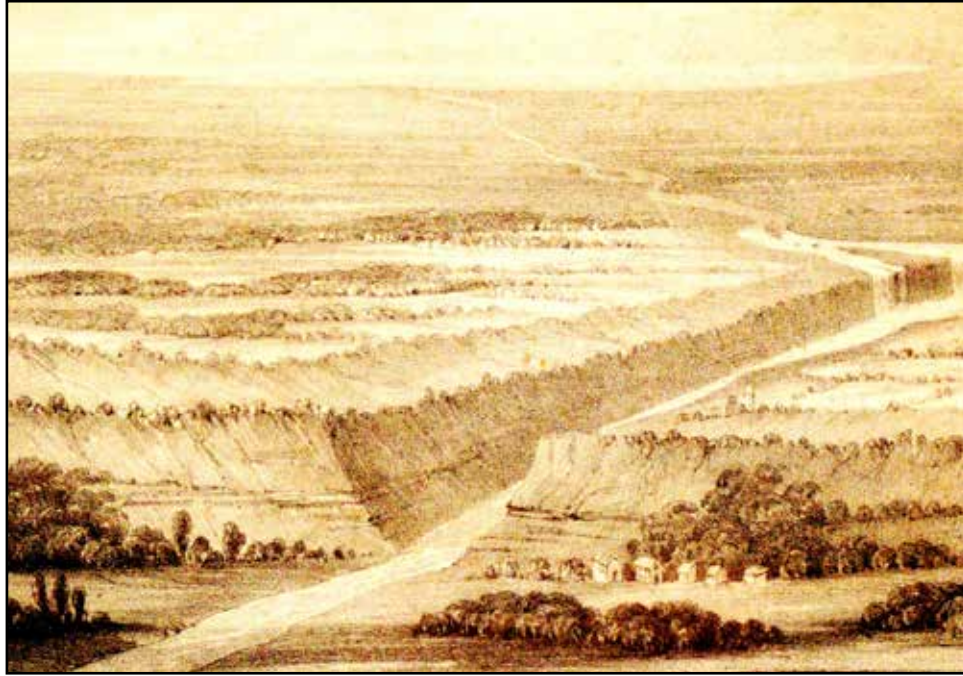
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'A Birds Eye View'

This bookplate is titled, "A Birds Eye View or Map of the Country from Lake Erie to Queenston. Exhibiting the Chasm formed by the Retrograde Movement of the Falls of Niagara." It was drawn by Robert Bakewell (1790-1875). This topographic landscape drawing is a wide view of the natural scenery from Queenston to Lake Erie, recording the terrain with a three-dimensional quality of the surface.



NOTL Soccer Club season in full swing

Soccer is in full swing this season through the Niagara-on-the-Lake Soccer Club, with two locations, including Centennial Sports Park in Virgil and Veterans Memorial Park in Old Town. Co-ordinator and coach with the club Joe Pagnotta said, "It's amazing, it's a breath of fresh air in a sense, to see all of these kids back." Pagnotta is pleased with the number of kids that are coming out, allowing the club to get back to normal after the pandemic. At the pitch this week, NOTL resident Tod Green said it was his son's third year playing soccer and that all of the coaches are very motivating and keep the kids active. "They all look forward to scrimmages and having fun together," said Green. MOLLY BOWRON

Looking to the Stars

It's officially summer now and new moon brings change

Thursday, June 30: As the moon moves from its home sign of Cancer into Leo we have activity with Venus, Saturn, Neptune, Mars and Pluto. It's a very busy day. A fair bit of stress may see us choosing to get lost in our imaginations. Better, get found in your imagination and solve stress swiftly. It was June 30, 1955, that the "Johnny Carson Show" first aired on CBS. This was seven years before the "Tonight Show" aired on NBC.

Friday, July 1: Happy Canada Day! Even though it's a holiday, activity between Mars and Pluto make for tons of energy which is put to best use strategizing on very deep and important spiritual goals. While Canada turns 155 today, Princess Diana would be 62. By numerology, 155 is 11, which is a Sagittarian number and 62 is eight, a Scorpionic one. Will Canada shoot over the hill and hit the unseen target? Will Princess Diana rise back into the sky?



Saturday, July 2: Mercury in Gemini connects with both Saturn and Neptune, making for sensible ideas that work well and dreamy ideas that may be brilliant – or baloney. Happy 85th to Richard Petty, winner of seven NASCAR championships and seven Daytona 500 races.

Sunday, July 3: Mercury continues to activate the cosmos today with a connection to Pluto. It's time to face the facts, see the truth and make a new plan. Television turns 94 today. It was July 3, 1928, that Scottish-born, John Logie Baird first demonstrated his invention, which he called television.



Monday, July 4: Happy birthday number 246 to the USA. Although this day is loaded with good karma, it also has an old wound that demands attention. By numerology, 246 is three, which is a Gemini number meaning NO for now. But YES, for later. The work of playwright Neil Simon, born July 4, 1928, was last featured at the Shaw Festival with "Sweet Charity" in 2015.



Tuesday, July 5: Mercury moves from its home sign of Gemini into nurturing Cancer, so for the next three weeks we may be inclined to focus our thoughts and hobbies on our families with research, history and photographs. The man who would become the fourth prime minister of Canada John Thompson wed Annie E. Affleck in Portland, Maine, on July 5, 1870.



Wednesday, July 6: The first quarter moon in Libra is tonight. It makes for a day to review the past week and make a list of what went well and what not so well. Keep the list handy for a look next week when the full moon arrives. It was July 6, 1994, that Jeff Bezos founded an online bookstore he called "Amazon."



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

Astrology is a form of entertainment, not a science.



All Along the Waterfront

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905-468-3912 | notlmuseum.ca | Hours: Daily from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Cedar leaf miner is another pest that can attack your garden



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Gardening Columnist

Last week I wrote about a relatively new insect that has moved into town – the box tree moth.

Now, I would like to introduce you to another pest we are seeing more of this season – the cedar leaf miner.

Although not new to this area, it seems to be becoming more prevalent. There are several species of cedar leaf miner that exist in Ontario, but the most common one found here is *Argyresthia thuiella*.

The Insect: Understanding the life cycle of an insect will help you understand how best to deal with it. From now to mid-July, the adult moths are active.

The small, silver moths have a three-eighths of an inch wingspan and a brown fringe on the edges of their fore wings. If you brush up against cedars and see a cloud of small moths, you most likely have an infestation.

After mating, the females deposit eggs on the inner edges of the tips of the cedar leaves. When the young larvae or caterpillars hatch, they are about one-eighth of inch long and are light greenish brown with a shiny black head.

They begin to mine into the foliage tissue and will overwinter – and continue to feed inside in early spring. Pupation occurs in late May and the adults emerge soon after. There is only one generation per year.

The Damage: If you have been noticing the outer tips (about one inch) of your cedars turning brown



this spring, then you might have cedar leaf miners.

We know from their lifecycle that the larvae feeding inside are causing the tips of the foliage to turn brown. The mined tips turn at first to a straw colour and later turn brown.

Since foliage has been hollowed out, the brown tissue will easily crumble between your fingers, whereas if it was winter damage, that brown tissue does not crumble.

Another way of telling that the brown tips are caused by cedar leaf miners is that there will be a sharp margin between the healthy green tissue and dead brown tissue.

To find the larvae inside the tissue, gently tear the leaf scale along the margin between the green and brown tissue. Look for a tiny green or yellow larva or pupa in this area in the spring.

The Solution: A light infestation for a season or two is not enough to kill your cedars, but a heavier infestation over a number of years will slow down and eventually could kill them.

The key is not to let it go untreated that long and get to that point. Monitoring your plants and catching

the problem early is the easiest way to keep your cedars healthy

If you are just starting to see some brown tips in the spring, you can greatly reduce their numbers by shearing the infested tips and destroying them before June. This way you are destroying the larvae before they emerge as moths and mate.

This should always be your first course of action early on. If you have a heavier infestation or have let the problem go untreated, you can try controlling them as adult moths late June to mid-July.

Since adults are flying moths, they do not provide an easy target and you will only be partially effective. If spraying for the moths, you use any all-purpose insecticide such as Malathion or Bug-B-Gon.

Most insecticides must come into contact with the insect in to kill it. Since the larvae are feeding inside the leaf tissue, regular insecticides are useless when it comes to spraying while the larvae are still inside the foliage.

At this stage of their lifecycle, a systemic insecticide can be used as a foliar spray or as a soil drench. A systemic insecticide is absorbed by the plant



Left: Cedars damaged by leaf miner. Right: Cedar leaf miner damage up close.
JOANNE YOUNG PHOTOS

through leaves or by roots.

Whatever is then feeding on the plant (from the inside or outside) takes up the chemical. Unfortunately, systemic insecticides were taken of the market when pesticide bans came in a few years ago. Arborists are still able to use forms of systemic insecticides and you can hire them to treat your cedars to control the larvae.

To help your cedars recover quicker, it is always a good practice to be deep watering the plants, especially during a dry season. Deep watering means that you let the water run slowly for a longer time so the moisture gets deeper into the soil. It also means you water longer but less frequently.

If you have a hedge of cedars, a good way of providing this deep watering is by laying out a soaker hose at the base of the plants. This way the water soaks deeper into the soil.

Fertilizing is also another great practice to help damaged plants recover. Use an organic fertilizer when possible. It provides a slower more controlled and longer-lasting feeding.

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

Kid Curator Camp is back at NOTL Museum

Barbara Worthy
Special to The Lake Report



Boats, balls, bowling and the world of bees are all part of the activities included in the NOTL Museum's popular Kid Curator Camp, back this summer to the delight of amateur sleuths, curators and aspiring Olympians.

The Kid Curator Camp will be offered in two sessions: July 18 to 22 Aug. 15 to 19.

The camps cost \$125 per child, per week.

The sessions, for kids six to 12, run from Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The theme for Week 1 is the waterfront and environment, where kids will explore Niagara-on-the-Lake's relationship with the Niagara River and Lake Ontario, from the fish and

the bees to the great naval battles of 1812, and even learn how to build a boat.

The theme for Week 2 is summer sports and games, where campers will host their own "Curator Games," to complement the Canada Summer Games, and participate in their own cricket, pickleball or lawn bowling matches.

To register contact Shawna Butts at the museum, 905-468-3912, or drop by the museum at 43 Castlereagh St.

Obituaries

Neufeld, Thomas John



Sept. 5, 1951 – June 23, 2022

It is with heavy hearts our family announces the passing of Thomas.

He will be greatly missed and forever loved by his brother and sisters, Paul (Nancy) Neufeld, Charlotte (Arno) Letkemann and Rita (Peter) DeMoel, his daughter Cynthia Neufeld, son and daughter in law, James (Shelley) Neufeld.

His grandchildren have so many fond memories of their Opa / Choo Choo Grandpa and will certainly miss him dearly; Ashton, Justina, Blake, Josie, Danya and Jolee will always hold him close in their hearts.

He leaves behind and will be fondly remembered by many nieces, nephews, and extended family.

He will always be remembered for his love for dogs, motorcycles, trains, and racing. He will be missed for his great smile and loud laugh.

He was always an extremely hard worker at the many careers he had, diesel mechanic, general contractor, realtor, and building inspector.

His family extends a heartfelt and sincere "Thank You" to all his friends, doctors, nurses, and emergency services for their care and compassion over these last couple years.

Family welcome friends to Pleasantview Funeral Home, 2250 Highway 20, Fonthill (905-892-1699) for a Memorial Service on Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 11 a.m. followed by a Celebration of Life from 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

If so desired/in lieu of flowers, donations in Thomas's memory can be made to the Niagara SPCA and Humane Society, Welland. Please share valued memories and condolences online at pleasantviewcemetery.ca



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Traveller, Niagara Enthusiast

Raised in Niagara-on-the-Lake Brittany is immersed in the town she grew up in and recognizes the depths of its beauty. Her personable nature and passion for design gives her a unique perspective on finding the perfect home for clients, built strongly on connection and specific needs for her sellers and buyers.

As a community resident, Brittany thoroughly enjoys sharing her knowledge and expertise on the Niagara experience, with not a single winery left undiscovered. As a sports and travel enthusiast, when not assisting clients, you will catch her exploring a new city, on the beach volleyball court, or biking to her next winery destination for a crisp Sauvignon Blanc. Michelle and Stefan are excited to welcome Brittany to the Reynolds Regier Team.

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