



NOTL students win in court | Page 10



Disero first to file bid for mayor of NOTL

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

It was a bright and warm Friday morning as Lord Mayor Betty Disero gathered with dozens of supporters to submit her application to run for re-election this fall.

“I just wanted to say how humbled and appreciative I am of all of you and

Continued on Page 5



Zalepa challenging Disero for top job

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Gary Zalepa wants to be the next mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

He has officially submitted his application to run for lord mayor, saying he wants to address the town’s financial situation and improve communication between the municipality and its residents.

Continued on Page 5

Legal battle leads to ownership change at golf club

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

North America’s oldest golf course has some new owners.

Control of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club changed hands suddenly

and unexpectedly on Monday after a prolonged legal battle between operators John and Jill Wiens and a group of business partners.

Despite repeated attempts by The Lake Report to contact them, neither the new owners nor the Wienses

were talking yet about the switch.

Two heavy bankers boxes at the St. Catharines courthouse contain several thousand pages of documents and offer some insights into the legal saga.

The long-running

lawsuits, dating back to at least 2014, pitted the Wiens family against two numbered companies, but also named NOTL businessperson Eva Kessel, Rob DiDomenico, the estate of Jim Forbes and Reif Estate Winery CEO

Klaus Reif in some of the civil litigation.

The complex and bitter battle, which included various claims and counterclaims, was slated to go to trial next Monday, May

Continued on Page 4

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE



Top row: Linda Hardaker captures workers preparing vines at Niagara College on May 3. Richard Harley photographed visitors walking in the rain along the Niagara Parkway on May 1. Bottom row: Ron Planche’s reflective photo shows NOTL’s John Floris filling up at Gales in St. Davids on May 4. And Dave Van de Laar caught people taking ops galore on May 7 outside the Niagara Apothecary.

New Lake Report project celebrates life in NOTL

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

The Lake Report is launching an ambitious new feature for readers – A Year in the Life of Niagara-on-the-Lake – a 12-month odyssey that will document in photos, and a few words, life and times in our little town.

Starting May 1, a team of more than 10 photographers, plus our own staff, kicked off the project, taking pictures of a wide range of happenings in NOTL – from everyday activities and quirky vignettes

to fascinating landscapes and newsworthy community-focused events.

Each Thursday at least one photo from the preceding week will be featured in the print edition of The Lake Report, while the bulk of the photographs shot by our team will be highlighted prominently on niagaranow.com, our news website.

Over the year, we hope to compile a huge online archive with a few photos from each day, all aimed at celebrating life in NOTL.

A Year in the Life will take us through 365 days of small-town living, ending on

April 30, 2023 – which also happens to be the eve of the fifth anniversary of the launch of The Lake Report.

The first seven days of photos, from Sunday, May 1 to Saturday, May 7, will appear on our website this week.

You’ll no doubt encounter some of our photographers in their travels around town.

To learn who they are and to see more of their work from the past week, see **Pages 2 and 3.**

Keep up with our gallery of photos over the year at **niagaranow.com.**

Peninsula Flooring Ltd.
13 Henegan Road
Virgil Business Park
(905)-468-2135
www.peninsulaflooring.ca

MONARCH PLANK
HARDWOOD FLOORING
SALE

<p>Serving Niagara Since 1977 SIMPSON'S Pharmacy: 905.468.2121 Apothecary: 905.468.8400 <i>Shop from the comfort of home www.simpsonspharmacy.ca</i> <i>In-store Curbside pick-up or FREE local delivery * Orders over \$35</i></p>	<p>FREE Regional Delivery* </p>	<p>Join us for monthly Customer Appreciation Days: Every 3rd Wednesday of the Month Customers 60+: Every Last Thursday of the Month ONLINE & IN-STORE</p>	<p>Curbside Pick-up Available </p>
--	--	--	---

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE



Top row: Evan Saunders records supporters cheering on Lord Mayor Betty Disero as she files her nomination papers May 6. Janice White found Michael Pierce with his "coyote stick" as he picked up his mail May 4. Bottom row: Richard Harley neatly frames visitors enjoying a rainy walk on May 1. Don Reynolds found spring blooms at Kauzlaric Farms on May 5. And Gail Kendall captured a familiar Queenston scene on May 4.



Ron Planche has been active politically in Niagara for many years and is an award-winning photojournalist. His photographs have appeared on the front pages of Canada's major newspapers and in Time magazine's Canadian edition. He is a member of the Niagara Falls Camera Club.



Janice White moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in April 2019 after 40 years in Toronto. She can be found either on the golf course or out in the region capturing wildlife and bird photos. Janice is the mom of Micky the kitten, whom she rescued from the middle of Lakeshore Road in the fall of 2020.



Jessica Maxwell grew up in Niagara-on-the-Lake and is an award-winning contributor to The Lake Report. The Mohawk College journalism graduate is also a freelance reporter for CBC News in Hamilton.



Dave Van de Laar was born and raised in Niagara-on-the-Lake and became interested in photography about 10 years ago. You can often find him around town with his camera in hand being pulled along by his Irish setter Darby.



Linda Hardaker retired from a career in corporate finance and now embraces her artistic side through the lens of her camera. Besides photographing wildlife, street photography is a special passion. She has travelled from Cuba to Romania and many parts of Asia to capture the essence of people in their daily lives.



Steve Hardaker moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake's Glendale neighbourhood after a career in meteorology with the federal government, mainly with the Department of National Defence. A community correspondent for The Lake Report, his interest in photography came from his love for birds and the outdoors.

 **BROCK BUILDERS INC.** CUSTOM HOME BUILDERS + RENOVATORS
 905 262 0895 BrockBuilders.ca
 Niagara-on-the-Lake



Angelika Zammit - Local Expert
Niagara-on-the-Lake Luxury Realty Team
Corner of Mississagua and John St., Old Town | 905-468-8777



FEATURED

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE



Top: Evan Saunders documents conservation worker Alicia Robinson planting saplings at Two Mile Creek on May 2. Bottom: Steve Hardaker captures a Baltimore oriole in his Glendale backyard on May 4. And Tony Chisholm shot Rick Meloen with a sign promoting the Upper Canada Heritage Trail's revitalization on May 7.



Gail Kendall moved to the village of Queenston in August 2018 and has thrown herself into different areas of employment and volunteering. She is a docent with the Shaw Guild. On walks with her wheaten terrier Willow she keeps an eye out for unusual and unique shots.



Tony Chisholm is a retired magazine publisher who has lived in NOTL for 20 years. A busy volunteer, he is president of the Friends of Fort George and vice-chair of the Upper Canada Heritage Trail committee. Photography has been his hobby for 50 years and he has amassed a library of thousands of beautiful photos of NOTL.



Don Reynolds grew up in Ottawa and had a long career in broadcasting, including 15 years directing "The National" on CBC. He spent another 15 years directing live CBC news shows, then oversaw the integration of control room automation across the country. He retired to NOTL in 2016.

The Lake Report would like to extend a big THANK YOU to the photographers helping with this project. If you see them on the street, greet them with a smile!

See more photos at Niagaranow.com

COUNTDOWN

86 DAYS

NIAGARA 2022 JEUX DU CANADA GAMES

AUGUST 6-21, 2022

St. David's VETERINARY CLINIC stdavidsvetclinic.com

Is your pet protected?

House-calls available ☎ 905.262.8777

airway CPAP inc.

NOW OPEN for all your CPAP and sleep apnea supplies.

Free delivery in NOTL and VIRGIL.

Curbside pick-up available at 111A Garrison Village Dr., Suite 202, NOTL.

For appointment call 289-868-9212.

HONoured TO BE YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA

TONY BALDINELLI, M.P.
NIAGARA FALLS

NIAGARA FALLS/NOTL OFFICE: 4056 Dorchester Road, Suite 107, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6M9, Tel: 905-353-9590
FORT ERIE OFFICE: 48 Jarvis Street, Fort Erie, ON L2A 2S4, Tel: 905-871-9991
TONY.BALDINELLI@PARL.GC.CA, TONYBALDINELIMPCA

St. Davids-Queenston United Church

1453 York Rd. St Davids
905-262-5242
www.stdavids-queenstonuc.ca
Minister: Rev. YongSeok Baek

Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m.
Also online
Visit our website

HIRING KITCHEN STAFF!

Ginger RESTAURANT

Wed - Sun, 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Dine-in and take-out
Tel: (905) 468-3871
390 Mary Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Serving Fresh Asian-Fusion Cuisine In a Cozy Atmosphere



Niagara-on-the-Lake
COMMUNITY
Palliative Care

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Are you interested in giving your time to a worthy cause? Join us for an info session **Saturday, May 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** at the NOTL Community Centre.

We at Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Service would like to extend an invite to anyone with a warm heart and a passion for giving to join our Care Team. Please join us on Saturday, May 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sweets & Swirls Cafe, where we will be providing prospective volunteers with some information about our services while holding an informal meet and greet. Come out and talk to one of our volunteers or staff! We are looking forward to meeting you!



EU Day celebrated in NOTL

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake welcomed 20 delegates from the European Union Consul General group for a flag raising and a day in town to build connections and celebrate European Union Day. Guests included the Ukraine Consulate representative, who was invited as extended support for the horrendous situation in their country. While the strength of Canada's ties to Europe were a topic, the ceremony was also focused on the Russian invasion of Ukraine.


NOTL's Cutest Attraction opens Saturday, May 14!



Barnyard visits with hundreds of animals and their springtime babies!

9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (closed Wednesdays)
No reservation required.
Contribution of \$15 per person.
68 Niagara St., NOTL
Text 289-969-7232 — or just drop by!

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



Advertising inquiries?
Email advertising@niagaranow.com

Golf club **changes hands** amid legal battle

Continued from Front Page

16, but the case has been settled, court officials said.

With the trial looming, the two factions came to a mediated settlement that quickly ended the tenure of John and Jill Wiens at the helm.

On Monday, Wiens, a popular Niagara-on-the-Lake municipal councillor, and his wife relinquished control and one of the new operators, St. Catharines businessman Marc Forbes, son of the late Jim Forbes, was on the premises and appeared to be supervising the business.

Marc Forbes, Kessel and DiDomenico, the winemaker at Reif Estate, apparently are the new owners. Klaus Reif does not have a share in the business, The Lake Report was told.

Court documents filed in the case claim that in early 2010, Wiens and his wife took over the golf club, along with their partners, after the business was placed in receivership by Meridian Credit Union.

The bankers were threatening to sell the club at auction in February 2010, the documents say.



The new operators of the NOTL Golf Club were on site Monday evening, Rob DiDomenico, left, Marc Forbes, centre, and Eva Kessel, far right. At rear is Klaus Reif.

Wiens held a 50 per cent stake in the business, the court records show. Within four years, however, the partners were in court, battling over the business.

Members of the golf club were aware of the years-long legal tussles, but it all took place behind the scenes and no details were widely known.

On Monday evening, Forbes, DiDomenico, Reif and Kessel were seen smiling and joking as they posed for informal photos on the first tee, with historic Fort Mississauga in the background.

The lack of information

about the change in ownership has led to questions among the staff and the 800 full-time and social members of the club.

Golfers interviewed about the change expressed surprise at the news and said they looked forward to hearing about the new owners' plans for the club.

Employees this week were tight-lipped and all said they knew little about what was going on.

Some members expressed concerns about what changes – including possible fee increases – the takeover might mean.

It has been a season of

upheaval at the popular waterfront golf course, which was founded in 1875.

After 16 years in NOTL, professional Billy Simkin left to become head teaching pro at Peninsula Lakes Golf Club near Fonthill.

He was succeeded by Keith Vant.

The Niagara Falls native, a graduate of Niagara College's professional golf management program, was hired by Wiens after working as an assistant pro at Legends on the Niagara golf club.

As well, a new manager was brought in to supervise the dining room.

SIMPLY WHITE INTERIORS

PLATINUM AWARD WINNER | PEOPLES CHOICE | INTERIOR DESIGN BUSINESS 2021

Residential + Commercial Design

347 Airport Road | Unit 4 | Niagara-on-the-Lake | www.swi.design | 905 708 4784



Over 1,000 residents sign Disero's mayoral bid

Continued from Front Page

everyone who signed and put their trust in me to run again this year," Disero told her supporters after turning in her application at town hall.

In order to submit an application, a candidate needs at least 25 signatures of support from residents.

Disero had more than 1,000.

"I started off getting 25 signatures, other people offered to help. Then it just snowballed into over a thousand," Disero said in an interview outside town hall.

She said she is humbled and appreciative to have received so many signatures this early in the campaign.

Disero laid out several issues she sees as important for Niagara-on-the-Lake, including ones related to the town's zoning bylaw.

"We're waiting on the official plan to be approved by the province



Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

but we feel now that it's time to review the zoning bylaw. We've started that process," she said.

There are three important aspects of the zoning bylaw's review, she said.

"One is heritage — more protection for heritage properties."

The second is dealing with the growth of monster homes through a contextual zoning bylaw, "so that way we're not getting monster homes next to bungalows," she said.

The last aspect of the zoning bylaw is appropriately incorporating secondary

suites and accessory dwellings, she said.

"So if they meet a certain criteria they would be allowed, as of right."

Disero pushed back against claims that the current council has depleted the town's reserves.

"Simply not true," she said, contending the town has more in its reserves now than previous councils did.

Disero also emphasized the importance of financial management in dealing with infrastructure.

"That is going to do two things, one is to bring a better quality of life for our residents and meet the current needs and needs as they evolve."

"And, secondly, build a foundation for our businesses to prosper. I don't want to do their business but I want to make it easier for them to be successful."

On Wednesday, after weeks of speculation, regional Coun. Gary Zalepa

confirmed he will be running for mayor this fall.

"I like Gary Zalepa and I welcome the discussion," Disero said in response to the news.

"I'm sure that people will be able to see the difference of approach and positions and we'll see what happens," she said.

"I like campaigning and I'm sure that it will be fulsome and respectful."

Among Disero's supporters on Friday was her mother, Lena Disero.

"She's doing a great job and everyone is saying, 'Don't leave us now. Don't leave us now. Run again,'" Lena said.

She said the life of a politician is not for her, but she admires her daughter's energy.

"It's not for me, but I like to be involved and help out," Lena said.

"Even if you make a tray of cookies, that's a great big help," she said with a laugh.

Zalepa will 'never bend' on St. Davids roundabout

Continued from Front Page

"It was not something I ever really had my sights on," Zalepa said in an interview on Wednesday.

But when he hears comments "about councillors feeling the budget isn't sustainable and there's no plan — that's just not acceptable," he said.

He said his experience as chair of the regional budget committee for the past four years will help build a sustainable capital budget for NOTL.

"Capital is the backbone of your roads, of your water system and of all the infrastructure that runs your day to day life."

The longtime realtor said he will work to address housing in NOTL, saying the municipal government has an important role in providing affordable housing in its community.

"Niagara-on-the-Lake is a really attractive place for people to live and I think we need to get out in front of that with clarity and policy."

Zalepa said he would also focus on the role of the lord mayor as an advocate for



Gary Zalepa.

municipal affairs to higher levels of government.

"(I would make) sure every minister in whatever government it is, whatever colour or stripe they are, they know who the mayor is of Niagara-on-the-Lake and they know what's important to their council," he said.

Zalepa said he enjoyed working with Disero the last four years as a regional councillor.

"I have great respect for her. She works really hard and we worked together on a lot of files," he said.

"I just know that I have a different way of doing things and so I wanted to put that out there."

There are two things he said he might have ap-

proached differently in the past four years if he had been mayor.

The first is the official plan.

"Obviously there's a document prepared but that document is incongruent, or, it's not compatible with the provincial policy statements," he said.

Instead of waiting for the official plan to be approved by a higher level of government he said he would have brought the plan back to the drawing board and made it more compatible with provincial policy.

He said he also wants to provide more protections for heritage buildings.

Secondly, Zalepa said he would have approached communication about the COVID-19 pandemic differently.

"I think I would have engaged the local businesses in a more fulsome way, to let them know what options were available from a public safety point of view."

He said people and business owners may have been more accepting of pandemic restrictions if the reasons behind them were better

communicated.

Zalepa spoke about his support for a proposed roundabout in St. Davids, a controversial issue for many in town.

"I don't think I'm being a non-representative. I think I'm actually taking a difficult decision and staying fast in it because I think the process that's gotten us to the recommendation so far has been very solid," he said.

Even if the solution is not popular, he is not willing to change his mind on it due to public backlash, Zalepa said.

"I will never bend to something that I don't think is right."

He compared the issue to another from NOTL's past: moving the library from the courthouse to the community centre.

"There were people who didn't want that and kudos to the council at the time who stayed brave in front of a tough decision. And now that's a fantastic facility."

"I think in the long-term people are actually going to say, 'Oh, that worked out better.'"

SPIRIT IN NIAGARA DISTILLERY
PATIO NOW OPEN!
FARM TO GLASS SPIRITS
VODKA-GIN-WHISKY-BRANDY
LOCAL NIAGARA CUISINE



SUN - THURS 11 - 7 | FRI & SAT 11-8
458 LAKESHORE ROAD, NOTL
905 934 1300 | spiritinniagara.com

Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society

PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 14
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 (Rain or Shine)

Perennials, Annuals, Shrubs,
Tomatoes, Herbs,
Tool Sharpening, Plant Advice

Meridian Virgil Arena

1565 Four Mile Creek Road
Niagara-on-the-Lake

SATURDAY JUNE 4TH - 8PM

HEADLINER MIKE WILMOT
 HOSTED BY NIAGARA'S OWN **JOE PILLITTERI**

FEATURING ERNIE VICENTE, ZABRINA DOUGLAS & FIONA O'BRIEN

Gala Night

FirstOntario PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
250 St. Paul St. St. Catharines

www.gardencitycomedyfestival.com

SANDTRAP PUB & GRILL

Great homemade pub favourites!
 - Pizza, wings, burgers, fish and chips

Keeping it local.

Open daily from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m.

358 Mary St. NOTL - 905-468-8727 - sandtrappub.com





Publisher: Richard Harley
Editor-In-Chief: Richard Harley
Managing Editor: Kevin MacLean
Design & Layout: Richard Harley
Advertising: Megan Vanderlee
Contributors: Evan Saunders, Jill Troyer, Tim Taylor, Joanne Young, Denise Ascenzo, Brittany Carter, Linda Fritz, Elizabeth Masson, Dr. William Brown, Brian Marshall, NOTL Museum, Kyra Simone, Gail Kendall, Patty Garriock, Bill Auchterlonie, Steve Hardaker, Ross Robinson, Maddy Gordon, Penny-Lynn Cookson, Janice White and many more members of the NOTL community

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

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 121
Region active cases: 1,373
Region deaths: 555
Region total cases: 40,381

**May 11 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
 "Each day comes bearing its own gifts.
 Untie the ribbons."
 - Ruth Ann Schabacker.

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Email:
 Letters: editor@niagaranow.com
 Story Ideas: editor@niagaranow.com
 Advertising: advertising@niagaranow.com
Phone
 Newsroom: 905-359-2270
 Advertising Department: 905-932-5646
Office Address
 496 Mississauga St., NOTL, Ontario, Canada.
Mailing Address
 PO Box 724, Niagara-on-the-Lake, L0S1J0
Have a lead on a story?
 Call 905.359.2270 or send an email to editor@niagaranow.com

Fox kits on guard at Fort George

Lake Report contributor Dave Van de Laar captured this photo of three fox kits at Fort George on Monday.

Calling all NOTL photographers: send us some of your interesting, evocative, quirky images of life around town and we'll consider them for our NOTL Snaps feature. Email images (1 MB or more) to editor@niagaranow.com.



Editorial

In a pickle over noise

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

In a little over a month, a court in Welland is expected to rule on a Niagara-on-the-Lake woman's complaint about noise from the town's outdoor pickleball courts.

We understand the repeated "clop-pity, clop" noise of a pickleball paddle striking a plastic ball – like a Wiffle ball, which is sometimes used for baseball practice – can get on one's nerves and even be annoying.

And while we are not going to adopt the stance of many online commenters

and keyboard warriors ("Just move!"), we don't believe the evidence we heard presented to Justice of the Peace Mary Shelley is sufficient to prompt the permanent shutdown of the outdoor courts.

We're not going to play judge and pick apart the complainant's case but we don't think it should succeed.

Meanwhile, moving the pickleballers inside the nearby arena while this plays out in court seems like a solution suggested by a town lawyer trying to mitigate risk. That's unfortunate.

It also appears that the wording of the town's noise bylaw needs to be improved.

Perhaps the complainant's testimony that she has endured three years of "torture" is indeed real to her.

However, in a growing town and with a housing development abutting a sports park – no matter who was there first, in this case it was the residents – there are bound to be disquieting and annoying sounds that some of us would rather not put up with.

Tuning it out seems the simplest alternative, but per-

haps that's just not possible for everyone.

Maybe there is some sort of mediated solution available (better sound barriers or quieter paddles), but as the litigation has been going on for more than a year, that doesn't seem in the cards.

We've never played pickleball (though we'd like to) but we have seen and heard it played. It's a fun sport and good exercise.

Shutting it down because of one person's complaint is overkill. Can't we all just get along and try to find some middle ground?.

editor@niagaranow.com



The reality is Ford is privileged, callous and inept

Dear editor:

A good leader should be trustworthy and Doug Ford has failed under this metric.

Under the premier's leadership, Ontarians have been subjected to a cruel neo-liberal agenda.

In Ford's Ontario, long-term care homes were sites of cruel neglect.

Nurses were called heroes, while having their wages capped below inflation.

Public schools were impoverished with fiscal cuts, while property developers padded their pockets.

Small business owners closed their shop, while the funds flowed to big business.

His MPPs enjoyed vacations while Ontarians were on lockdown. He showed up late to his own news conferences.

All of this is meant to be a distant memory, while in election mode Ford provides

Ontarians with a plethora of ironic images of Doug wearing hard hats, masquerading as a blue-collar worker.

The facade of Ford becomes revealed when you examine his true intentions.

Understand him through the lens of a self-aggrandizing propaganda gas sticker that doesn't stick (money wasted). Licence plates that can't be read (again, money wasted).

Lip service to nurses while making their

working lives harder and their pay hikes were less than inflation.

The carefully crafted image of Ford as caring and benevolent quickly unravels when you peel back the label and look below the surface revealing the true Doug Ford as privileged, callous and inept.

Can Ontario afford more years with Doug Ford?

Mark Castrodale
 Vineland



ontario's largest independant family owned & operated bottle shop
 over 400 different wines | retail pricing
 open daily 12-8 | 289-272-1242



Town has **no real control** of business signs downtown

Dear editor:

After the April 21 news story in The Lake Report about the impending opening of a Dairy Queen on Queen Street (“Taylor’s Bakery to reopen as a Dairy Queen”), and the accompanying image depicting the design of the sign, I was going to offer a comment.

But after reading Brian Marshall’s excellent and highly informative column “Signs of your future” on page 18, he has said it all, concisely and to the point.

There seems to be no real control or creative input to any of the more recent signs that go up on any of the businesses on the main street of NOTL.

I hope Mr. Marshall’s very informative article is read by those who may have some influential input on this subject.

And, as we now have a new Chamber of Commerce president, there may be hope of fresh new eyes on this important subject.

Christopher Allen
NOTL

Overkill with St. Davids signs

Dear editor:

I can’t believe all the new “no parking” signs on Four Mile Creek Road near the Grist restaurant.

It is so typical of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s anal mindset that good business is bad for St. Davids.

It wasn’t bad enough that the owners had to fight numerous ridiculous roadblocks to establish this extremely successful business,

But now they can’t have

some flexibility to allow their overflow customers to park on the sufficiently wide shoulders of the road.

The entire traffic system in St. Davids has become a joke to navigate with new 50 to 70 km/h sections, no passing, four-way stops and the proposed roundabout.

It’s major overkill all around, like so many decisions this council and staff make.

Bill Plancke
St. Davids

A viable official plan is **crucial** for NOTL

Dear editor:

With regards to Rainer Hummel’s opinion piece addressing Bill 108, (“Provincial changes mean town must allow secondary dwellings on properties,” May 5), our local official plan debacle and the regional role in all of this.

The most telling piece in Mr. Hummel’s comments is the reference to the “as of right option” with Bill 108, which means that in reality an additional dwelling request cannot be denied.

As we do not have “property rights” in this country, this is our next best option to ensuring our property is respected as such.

It is the role and responsibility of municipal governments to ensure they follow provincial guidelines and legislation – that is why we have an official plan.

This is the document staff follow to ensure “all rights” are protected and that the municipality has a plan in place to ensure the infrastructure is compatible and meets requirements of the demands of growth.

In essence, can the sewers



The Niagara Region has yet to approve NOTL’s official plan. SUPPLIED

handle additional toilets, can the roads handle additional traffic, is there a plan to ensure there are no brownouts because of the additional housing demands on our hydro?

As our community grows, we can no longer live in a dream world of trying to control that growth – it is inevitable.

The only thing we do is plan for it – hence the need for a viable official plan, that the region is required to approve, that meets provincial legislation or we will have uncontrolled growth with drastic ramifications on the demands of our infrastructure.

Derek Insley
NOTL

Let’s all **share** the trail on former railway line

Dear editor:

Regarding the Upper Canada Heritage Trail: More than 70 years ago the railway along Concession 1 was decommissioned.

Shortly afterward, dirt bike riders created a trail where tracks were once laid. I began riding the trail myself in the late 1960s along with countless other local kids who used this trail to move between farms and our local communities.

It’s how we got to the public pool in the early ‘70s and for a slice of Alfredo’s pizza on King Street. Years later, three-wheelers as well as snowmobiles arrived and we all learned to share our trail and more farm kids used our pathway.

Then came the four-wheel ATVs and once again we learned to share. Soon, Pam Gallop built her stables near Line 3 and we were joined by horses on our trail and we learned to slow down and minimize the noise from our dirt bikes to not spook the horses. Once again we learned to share.

Recently we have been banned from the last leg of our trail from East and West Line

to Old Town and suddenly our trail has been usurped by those not willing to share.

We were here first. We were here before there was a corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. To this day I still ride the trail with my son and bump into other local kids who venture to Queenston and back safely off the travelled road, on a trail we’ve used for decades.

East Welland has a 20-kilometre trail to Port Colborne that is used by horses, bicycles and walkers as well as the original separate trail used by dirt bikes. They also learned to share.

NOTL pedestrians have the Parkway trail and the Bob House multi-use trail as well as sidewalks throughout Old Town.

There is lots of room to allow the original dirt bike trail to remain unmolested and still make room for a new walking and biking trail for the bicycles and walkers.

There is the question of a predated, legal non-conforming use, however, we are happy and willing to share. Question is, are you?

Rainer Hummel
St. Davids



RE-ELECT

WAYNE GATES

NIAGARA FALLS, FORT ERIE & NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Our town has a strong local voice in Wayne Gates. **Let’s continue our good work.**

STRONG. READY. WORKING FOR YOU.

waynegates.ontariondp.ca

wayne.gates@ontariondp.ca

289-969-6426

Authorized by the CFO for the Niagara Falls NDP

ONTARIO

NDP NPD

They broke it, we’ll fix it.

We’ve been through a lot in the last few years. It’s time to fix the issues that matter most. We have a plan to:

- ➔ Fix health care and seniors’ care
- ➔ Respect cultural & natural heritage
- ➔ Defend our Greenbelt



How the Town of NOTL could act to **boost** affordable housing

John Sayers
Special to The Lake Report

A few weeks ago, I wrote a plea – and suggested a solution – for local housing to help the homeless refugees fleeing the Ukraine.

It was ironic that the article collided with other news in The Lake Report about comparable problems even much closer to home – specifically, right here in NOTL. There are Canadians on our doorstep desperate for affordable accommodation to be able to remain living here in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The shortage of affordable housing is no secret. Just ask the service staff in any of our local businesses why they don't live closer to their jobs and they will tell you that they can't afford to live here.

But it seems that even people who once could afford the local rents are also being squeezed out. What's the secret?

Part of the secret is the casual attitude that the town



The only affordable housing in NOTL is on Davy Street. FILE

takes toward developers. If you were a developer and you looked at Toronto, where you would be expected to pay toward creating and maintaining parks, you might think twice.

And when Toronto also required you as developer to provide a percentage of your development for affordable housing you might immediately turn your attention to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Yes, come to developer-friendly Niagara-on-the-Lake, where you take no social responsibility and can focus all your attention on making big bucks from

big projects.

And this retired chartered accountant can tell you why it has always been this way and likely will remain so. Depressing thought? Read on.

The City of Toronto has a substantial inventory of city-run housing, built over many years. It's expensive to own and maintain.

Residents of affordable housing (sometimes called social housing) units can't afford to pay for the increasing costs of maintenance and repairs, fuel, security, management and all the other elements of subsidizing housing costs.

That's why they have ref-

uge there. It's a nightmare for those who are struggling to stay alive financially. I'm sure it's a stressful and emotionally draining experience. In Toronto, government has stepped in. In NOTL, we need to act.

But with whose money? I have a suggestion.

How about the developers who should be compelled to contribute to the housing of our financially stressed?

For example, we have a massive new winery and entertainment complex coming to town.

According to The Lake Report, it's costing \$40 million. Most of that isn't for grapes. And the service staff in the restaurant, the wine shop, and other amenities can't afford to live here.

So maybe the town should levy a fee of, say, 2 per cent on the project – to go specifically toward affordable housing.

That's \$800,000 – a darned good start to a town affordable housing fund. And when you add an af-

fordable housing levy to all the other new projects in town, NOTL might be faced with the resources to actually do something.

What a pain, some would say. All those poor people cluttering up our streets when they should just come and work here and then go away – somewhere.

Who else makes serious money out of our housing affordability crisis? Well, there's the real estate sales community.

A six per cent commission on a (lower-end in NOTL) million-dollar property takes \$60,000 out of the pockets of the homeowner who has priced his or her property high enough to cover that cost. So perhaps those real estate agents should have to chip in a percentage of their commissions to the affordability fund.

These levies won't bring down the price of existing properties – the supply/demand relationship, inflation and growing popula-

tions will continue to push prices higher. So, we need to create new, affordable housing stock for those who will never be able to climb the "property ladder."

Even if attitudes changed dramatically and developers were required to front-end many of the costs, let's be realistic and accept that our town would likely be on the hook for ongoing costs from subsidizing affordable housing operations.

That means an indeterminate amount of a tax increase each year. And that's never popular with voters in any municipality, no matter how charitable they may feel.

So, we will likely carry on as we have done all the years up to this point. Forget housing refugees. Forget housing needy Canadians.

They say that you can't teach an old dog new tricks, so we can assume that NOTL is not going to metaphorically sit up and bark after more than two centuries. Too bad.

Niagara Lake
-on-the-
EST. 1781

2022 MUNICIPAL TAX REMINDER NOTICE INTERIM SECOND INSTALLMENT DUE WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2022

Tax Rates as per Interim By-Law No. 5374-21

Payment may be made by **mail** or by drop off at the **Town Municipal Offices** at 1593 Four Mile Creek Road (PO Box 100, Virgil ON L0S 1T0). A 24-hour mail slot is located at the front (accessible drop box) and side entrances of the Town office for your convenience. Post-dated cheques are accepted. **Payment can also be made electronically from your bank account using the 19-digit roll number.**

If payment is made at a bank or other pay station, your account will be credited only **after** the Town has received settlement from the bank. Please allow **ten (10)** working days for payment processing.

A penalty of 1.25% will be added on the first day of default and on the first day of each month thereafter. To avoid penalty and interest charges, **payment must be received at the Town Municipal Office by the due date. Penalties may not be waived.**

Failure to receive a bill does not excuse a taxpayer from the responsibility of payment of taxes and penalty. **If you have not received your tax notice, please contact the Finance division at 905-468-3266 to ensure that your correct mailing address, including PO Box, is on file.**

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A MORE CONVENIENT WAY TO PAY YOUR TAXES?

Save time and potential late fees by paying your taxes through our Pre-Authorized Payment (PAP) plan or through online or telephone banking. Property owners can also request to receive their property tax bills and notices from the Town by e-mail only through a new eSend service.

For information on payment options or to sign up for eSend, visit the Town's website at www.notl.com or contact our Finance division directly at 905-468-3266 ext. 230.



32 LORETTA DRIVE, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ON

I enjoyed working with my Sellers to get their home sold in 9 days and \$75,000 over asking price. They can now fulfill their dreams in the next chapter of their lives. If you are looking for a Realtor who cares and loves helping people through transitions in their lives, please let me know.

Learn more at nancybailey.evrealstate.com



Nancy Bailey, CIPS • Engel & Völkers Oakville, Brokerage
Broker • Private Office Advisor
226 Lakeshore Road East • Oakville
Ontario • L6J 1H8
905-371-4234
nancy.bailey@evrealstate.com

ENGEL & VÖLKERS
NANCY BAILEY

COVID cases trending down but not deaths, Hirji says

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Cases of COVID-19 are trending downward, Niagara's chief medical officer of health says, but deaths from the virus are high and stable.

"I think there's some hopeful signs that things are decreasing but it might not necessarily be as uniform across the region as we'd like," Dr. Mustafa Hirji told a media briefing on Monday.

Most wastewater treatment plants in Niagara are showing a decrease in COVID-19 but a few are holding steady, he said.

Cases are still fairly high, but their downward trend could be strengthened by the warming weather, Hirji said.

Overall, hospital numbers are down but ICU numbers are holding steady, he said, and the situation is a little worse

for Niagara's hospitals than for the rest of the province.

Hirji said hospital numbers in Niagara are higher than they were during the second wave of the pandemic.

Death trends from COVID-19 are still climbing in Niagara and Ontario even though cases appear to be falling, he said.

Hirji said for an extended period there was generally one or no deaths from COVID in Niagara. Now there are two or three deaths per day from the virus.

Moving forward vaccination will be the best defence against further waves of COVID-19, he said.

He also emphasized the ongoing importance of wearing masks as a broad public mitigation measure against the virus, one that provides a lot of protection and virtually no inconvenience.

Four-way stop coming to Church and McNab

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Another dangerous rural intersection in Niagara-on-the-Lake is getting a four-way stop.

Resident Tony Giordano convinced NOTL council to approve changes to the intersection of Church and McNab roads and to reduce speeds along Church.

"Church Road is the only direct throughway to Virgil. This presents a very dangerous situation where sight lines are obscured between the McNab and Church Road intersection," Giordano told councillors on April 25.

Giordano said he was chosen to represent residents and businesses near Church and McNab.

He recounted several instances over the past 20 years where poor sight lines combined with a high speed limit on Church Road resulted in bad crashes.

"Joanne and Karen's



house is at the top of the hill. Approximately five years ago a car avoided a collision by driving off McNab into their side yard, taking out three pear trees which were 35 years old," he said.

"Do you know how fast that person had to be going to knock off three pear trees at 35 years old? They no longer allow their grandchildren to play outside on half of their property."

Among a litany of other near-misses described by Giordano, the NOTL resident made a simple request

of the town.

"Is this council willing to say the buck stops here or do we continue the battle hoping not to become a stat so someone can update their database?" he asked.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero was particularly supportive of Giordano's request, noting the town had received emails and letters from dozens of residents and businesses in the area asking for the change.

"I'll just mention a few: The Muellers, McNab Acres, Thwaites Farms, J&R Plumbing, Meyers Farms and greenhouses, Niagara Orchard Vineyard Corporation, Pillitteri's, Lakeview Equipment, even Julie Taylor from the Stone Road Pharmacy," Disero said.

"These people have been asking for assistance on this intersection for years and years and years."

Disero noted the intersection sits in a gully, so approaching cars gather speed as they travel downhill

toward the crossing.

Giordano said the area is used extensively by farm vehicles, adding increased danger to the already-unsafe intersection.

Coun. Gary Burroughs, while supportive of the installation at this particular intersection, asked why it was OK for the town to go ahead and install a stop sign without doing a proper study first.

"Are we just making up our own rules?" Burroughs asked his fellow councillors.

Several councillors agreed that it is important to conduct the appropriate research before changing an intersection but said this particular one is an exceptional circumstance as it has been the cause of concern for years.

Council unanimously supported a motion to install a four-way stop at the intersection and to reduce speeds along Church Road to 60 km/h from 80 km/h between Concession 6 and Read Road.

PAWSITIVE PATIO
DOG DAY AT THE PUB




MAY 18 · 12:00PM – 8:00PM
MEET OTHER DOGS · BOOP SOME SNOOTS

THE IRISH HARP PUB IS TEAMING UP WITH PAWSITIVE SPIRITS FOR A DAY OUT WITH YOUR PUPPER. WE WILL HAVE HEALTHY, DOG FRIENDLY FOOD AND DRINK CREATIONS TO TREAT YOUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIEND.



PAWSITIVE SPIRITS MAKES DANGEROUSLY GOOD FLAVOURED VODKA SODA BEVERAGES AND THEY WILL BE LAUNCHING A NEW MANGO FLAVOUR FOR THIS EVENT, SO MAKE SURE TO SAVE THE DATE BECAUSE YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS OUT ON THIS UNIQUE AFTERNOON OUT WITH YOUR BEST FRIEND.

A CAUSE FOR THE PAWS
FOR EVERY PAWSITIVE SPIRITS PRODUCT SOLD A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS WILL GO TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTERS.



PATIO EVENT · RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED
245 KING STREET NOTL · (905) 468-4443
THEIRISHHARPPUB.COM

2022 KIDS
PADDLE CAMP
MORNING & AFTERNOON
SUP & KAYAK CAMP
YOUTH 8-12
TEEN 13-16

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
PADDLENIAGARA.COM



NOTL teens help **lead** their high school

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake showed itself to be a formidable training ground for future young lawyers after three teenagers from town helped lead their school to a legal victory at a competitive mock trial last week.

"It's so fun. I want to go to law school one day, so having the opportunity to actually get feedback from judges and lawyers and people that are trained — it's such a great opportunity," 17-year-old Sophie Hawthorne, a resident of Garrison Village, said in an interview between hearings last Friday.

Sophie, a Grade 11 student, said the experience has inspired her to start looking at post-secondary schools.

She was part of a team of students from A.N. Myer Secondary School in Niagara Falls. Her fellow lawyers-in-training included Emma Mantler, Arshpreet Saini, Madison Sabourin, Megan McMeekin and Mallory Steinburg.

Arshpreet and Madison also live in NOTL.

The participating schools were Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School, E.L. Crossley Secondary School, Denis Morris Catholic High School, St. Francis Catholic Secondary School, Notre Dame College School, Laura Secord Secondary School, Grimsby Secondary School and Myer.

Myer won a hard-fought victory in the final round and that's not hyperbole. They beat Denis Morris by just one point.



Madison Sabourin, Mallory Steinburg, Sophie Hawthorne and Meghan McMeekin won a hard-fought legal victory against Denis Morris Catholic High School at a mock trial held in the Superior Court of Justice on May 6. EVAN SAUNDERS

"I think our team won because of the hard work we all put in, our ability to work together and have each other's back, the amazing tips and tricks from our lawyer coach, and our teacher's help and experience to prepare us," student Emma Mantler said.

With their victory, A.N. Myer became the first school in competition history to win back-to-back trials, finishing first last year as well, Sophie said.

Throughout the day Myer won three of its four trials. But Sophie was undeterred by that single defeat.

"Honestly, I thought I would care that we just lost and I'm not upset at all. We're just having so much

fun," she said.

The annual event is part of a provincewide program between the Ontario Bar Association and the Ontario Justice Education Network. It's called the Competitive Mock Trials for High School Students and is designed to give legal-minded kids a chance to experience a trial first-hand.

Lawyer David D'Intino organized the Niagara arm of the trials.

He worked overtime to ensure the kids would be able to compete in an actual courtroom. His efforts paid off as the Niagara students were the only ones in the entire province who got to experience the thrill of court in person last week.

All other trials were conducted over Zoom.

"It's presented some challenges but I'm really happy and I'm really proud that we are able to do it in person and I told them, 'If I have to scrub every square inch of every surface with Windex and Lysol, I'll do it. I'll do whatever it takes,'" D'Intino said in an interview at the St. Catharines Courthouse, where the trials were held.

He said there was no such program when he was a young lawyer coming up in Niagara and instead the kids would just hold a mock trial in class.

"I think I had a Crayola briefcase or something, and I remember that the judge

was my friend's girlfriend. She didn't like me very much so she threw me out of the court. That kind of stuck with me," D'Intino said with a laugh.

Ensuring the students had an authentic experience was his main motivation, he said.

"It's a good way to give these kids a positive interaction, their first kind of impression of the justice system."

The in-person experience was not lost on them.

"It made it all so much more real. Better practice as well. Our school did it last year online and it just doesn't compare," Sophie said.

"Being able to argue in

front of a real judge was an amazing opportunity. Presenting our case and being able to get feedback on the work we did really allowed me to think of the case in different ways," 17-year-old Megan McMeekin said after her team's final victory.

Megan, a resident of Niagara Falls, said she hopes to become a Crown attorney one day.

Sophie has known for a long time that she wanted to be a lawyer.

"I've wanted to do criminal law since I was in Grade 6," she said.

"My parents aren't very big fans of that. They want me to be Crown," she said with a laugh.

But the young NOTLer says all people deserve a chance for fair representation.

"Everyone needs a defence, so I really want to do that," she said.

Sophie said her natural contentious nature is what led her toward law.

"I've always been the most argumentative kid ever, so I might as well get paid for that," she said.

But there is always a deep-seated inspiration for the dreams we chase.

"Of course, there was Elle Woods (the main character for the film 'Legally Blonde') as well," Sophie admitted.

She wasn't the only one to name drop the legendary film lawyer played by Reese Witherspoon.

"I wanted to have an Elle Woods moment," said Mallory Steinburg of Niagara Falls.

She doesn't want to be a lawyer and is pursuing


LIDA KOWAL
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT
1627 Niagara Stone Rd., Unit B2
Virgil, ON L0S 1T0
905-468-5300
Monday to Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
*Accounting *Taxation *Business Services *Estate Planning

ART LIVES HERE
RIVERBRINK ART MUSEUM
116 Queenston St., Queenston
905-262-4510 riverbrink.org WED. - SAT. | 10 AM - 4 PM

Warren
RENOVATIONS
905.468.2127
PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING


CRYSTAL CLEAR CLEANING SERVICES
PROUDLY SERVING THE NIAGARA AREA
CONTACT US FOR A FREE QUOTE TODAY!
289-501-0682
@CRYSTALCLEARCLEANINGNIAGARA
CRYSTALCLEARCLEAN17@GMAIL.COM
WWW.CRYSTALCLEARCLEAN.CA


Ravenshead Homes INC.
www.RavensheadHomes.com
Renovations ~ Additions ~ Inspections
289 969 5991


kvcontracting@hotmail.com
905-380-4264
Kevin Van de Laar
CONTRACTING
For all your construction needs...

to victory in mock trial

psychology at the University of Guelph next year.

“There is a great deal of advocating one must do for their patients,” she said.

“Through my experience with the law through this mock trial, I’ve been able to gain the knowledge of what it takes to support my clients’ best interests.”

Here is how the day played out:

There were eight schools involved in the mock trial. In the morning, each got a chance to represent the prosecution and the defence in two separate trials.

Depending on whom they were representing, the students had different roles. Some were lawyers and others were the witnesses in the trial.

The importance of having a good witness was impressed upon the schools and strong interactions between lawyers and witnesses were often a highlight for the judges and lawyers overseeing the trials.

Each team was scored on their performance. Whoever did the best moved on to the final two rounds, where a coin flip determined which side they would represent.

All the lawyers and judges involved in the mock trial volunteered their time, a generous gesture for professionals who thrive on billable hours.

Deputy Judge Rod McDowell explained why he was there.

“It’s very simple, it helps students understand what the law’s about and get some practical experience of trying to do it,” he said in an interview after overseeing one of the trials.

“And I think that’s very



Top: Lawyer Sarah Ramalho and recently retired Justice Peter Wilkie oversaw the final trial of the day. Bottom: The A.N. Myer team with their law teacher and coach Joe McMaster discuss what went right and wrong after their third trial of the day. EVAN SAUNDERS

important. The more people that are exposed to that the better they will understand the system.”

He recalled the limited scope of judicial representation during his childhood.

“When I was growing up all we had was (television show) ‘Perry Mason’ and stuff like that. This is much closer to the reality and that’s important for people to understand.”

Students were arguing a case called R. v. Smalls. The case centred around an attempt at prison intimidation gone wrong. Two

inmates, one of them Jordan Morrow, were trying to smack new inmate Rory Smalls in the back of the head to send a message that they should not be messed with.

This incident started a larger brawl that resulted in Smalls, initially targeted for the intimidation, returning to the fight after escaping and stabbing Morrow in the neck with a shiv.

The prosecution was based around Smalls being charged with assault causing bodily harm. The team from Myer won

all three of its prosecution sessions.

“Your honour, what have we learned from this case?” NOTL’s Madison Sabourin said in starting her closing statement during the final trial.

“We learned that the defendant, Rory Smalls, was not acting in self-defence and rather attacked the victim of this case, Jordan Morrow, leaving Morrow, a party uninvolved with gang activity, severely injured.”

“Jordan Morrow may have been the victim of a malicious gang crime but, your honour, do not let him be a victim of the justice system.”

Judge Peter Wilkie, a NOTL resident who retired six months ago, returned to the courtroom to preside over the final trial.

“I just want to say before anyone else, I haven’t been here all day. I was parachuted in here at about 3 o’clock in the afternoon,” Wilkie said when telling the schools the final verdict.

“But, boy was I blown away with how hard you guys have worked, obviously, and all the effort you put into it and how professional you all were, and appeared and acted.”

He said he was impressed by the poise, control and comfort the two final teams exhibited in the lengthy final trial, which lasted well over an hour.

In all, the students spent nearly 10 hours in the St. Catharines courthouse arguing their case.

“I hope, in due course, some of you decide to become advocates. Being a lawyer is a wonderful thing,” Wilkie said.



It can’t be seen, can’t be felt, can’t be heard, and can’t be smelled. It lies behind stars and under hills, and empty holes it fills. It comes first and follows after, ends life, and kills laughter. What is it?

Last issue: What two things can you never have for breakfast?

Answer: Lunch and dinner

Answered first by: Claudia Grimwood

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Mary Drost, Margaret Garaughty, Terry Nord, Susan Hamilton, Bob Stevens, Jesse Agnew, Jim Baird, Gail Benjafield, Michele Campbell, Sheila Meloche, Pam Dowling, Ted Wiens, Carol Durling, Tammy Florio, Steve Siansky, Al Brockway, Sadie Willms, Jane Morris, Graham Gibbs, Susan Pohorly, Margie Enns, Dennis Blake, Darlene Pam, Josh Langendoen, Danny McCarthy, Jacob Doerksen, KC King

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

J&S Performance

SALES & SERVICE

HUSTLER

905-468-9735

901 East/West Line, NOTL



**RENT MY HUSBAND
in Niagara-on-the-Lake**

See what he can do for you at:
www.rentmyhusband-notl.com
Or call me, **Marion (905) 321-5776**

**UPPER CANADA
MECHANICAL**
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
905-651-0470

KeepRite



**GRACE UNITED
CHURCH**

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ONTARIO
222 VICTORIA ST. 905-468-4044

**We’re back - Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
COVID protocols are in place
www.graceunitedchurch.com**

Pauline Reimer Gibson is an Audiologist with over 20 years of experience who loves helping people of all ages in the community.



Pauline Reimer Gibson
Audiologist

**Book a complimentary
hearing test today at
905.468.9176**

A global leader in
hearing healthcare.

504 Line 2 Road, Virgil ON

amplifon

2207 FOUR MILE CREEK RD



**WE’RE HIRING
TIRE TECHNICIANS
AND
SALES ADVISORS
APPLY TODAY!**

(905)-468-4233

J&S CONSTRUCTION

**PUTTING NIAGARA
RESIDENTS FIRST!**

**Renovations • Additions
Custom Homes • Kitchens
Decks, Fences & much more!**



289-697-5757 | JS-CONSTRUCTION.CA

Tickets on sale as polo returns to the Commons

Staff
The Lake Report

Polo, an important fundraiser for the NOTL Museum, is returning to Niagara-on-the-Lake on Sept. 10.

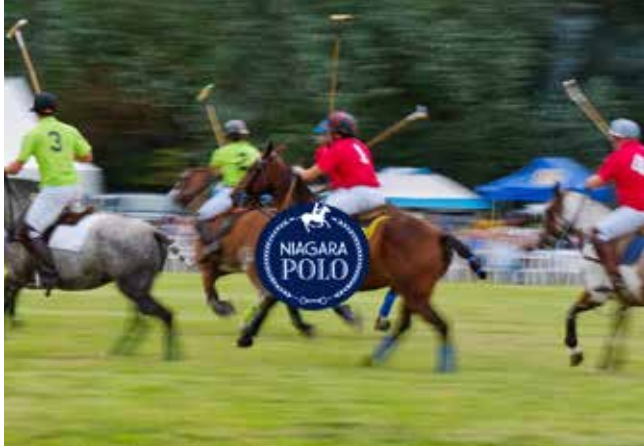
Niagara Polo features games on the Commons with players from the Toronto Polo Club, the traditional divot stomp with bubbly, half-time entertainment, music, food vendors, bar, artisans, silent auction, prizes, fancy hats, and loads of fun, says museum spokesperson Amy Klassen.

Tickets are on sale now and there are a variety of options available.

Admission is free for those 18 and under, while general admission is \$15 (rising to \$20 on Aug. 20).

There's also the Rotary Lounge, with 50 patio tables with umbrellas, available at \$240 per table of six.

You can bring your own



The NOTL Museum is selling tickets to Niagara Polo, which returns Sept. 10. SUPPLIED/NOTL MUSEUM

picnic lunch or purchase it from vendors. Food and wine will be available to pre-order online.

VIP dining is also available at tables of eight for \$150 per person under the Engel & Volkers tent.

It features a gourmet lunch, local wines and beer, the Champagne divot stomp between games, traditional afternoon tea and a \$50 charitable tax receipt.

For more information go to www.niagarapolo.com.

Rotary's Gigantic Garage Sale this weekend

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club is calling it the largest sale of its kind ever held in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The club's Gigantic Garage Sale begins Friday, May 13, at 6 p.m. with a special preview (admission \$25) and continues Saturday and Sunday at Cornerstone Community Church in Virgil.

Weekend admission is free and the sale runs 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Organizers say they have enough goods to fill a few houses, including 400 paintings and prints, 29 area rugs, sofas, kitchen stools, dining room and bedroom suites, desks, office chairs, wall units, dishes, children's toys, outdoor and indoor furniture and lots more.

See the club's website for more details.

St. Davids Lioness Club Spring Market returns Saturday

There will be food and drink trucks, plus more than 40 artists and vendors at the St. Davids Lioness Club's big Spring Market this Saturday.

It all happens at the Lions Hall on York Road, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine.

The sale is a major fundraiser for the club. Admission and parking are free.

Museum's latest exhibition explores waterfront history

Barbara Worthy
NOTL Museum

For thousands of years Niagara's waterfront has been a witness to a changing world.

Traditional hunting and gatherings, warring nations, settlers and refugees, traders, tourists, and pleasure seekers have all been attracted to the most important river in the largest freshwater system on Earth – the Niagara River.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake museum's latest exhibition "All Along the Waterfront" opens on May 18 and explores the relationship between Niagara-on-the-Lake and its waterfront, its industries, growth and its traditions.

All of this is due to its prized location, overlooking the mouth of the Niagara River as it pours into Lake Ontario.

These same waters provided an economic highway for the lucrative fur trade that dominated the settlement of

Upper and Lower Canada for more than 250 years.

The waterfront represents much of Niagara's growth, from traditional land to tourist mecca, and the highly developed communities that now occupy its shores.

And without it, Niagara-on-the-Lake would never have even existed.

"All Along the Waterfront" opens May 18 and runs to Dec. 18.

Complementing the exhibit is the NOTL Museum's first in-person lecture this year, "A History of C&C Yachts," on May 19 at 7:30 p.m.

The award-winning global success of C&C Yachts is legendary. It operated a factory in Niagara-on-the-Lake for 30 years and was Canada's largest builder of sail boats before being destroyed by fire in 1994.

For more information on both these events call 905-468-3912, or check www.notlmuseum.ca



FINE COLLECTIBLES BY THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND



WWW.UPPERCANADANATIVEART.COM | 905-468-6464 | 109 QUEEN ST.

STUDENTS GET \$3,000 TO START A BUSINESS

SUMMER COMPANY OFFERS STUDENTS FUNDING AND MENTORSHIP TO START A BUSINESS.

Apply Now

niagarafalls.ca/summercompany

905 356 7521 ext. 5130

Summer Company



Ontario



\$2,800 raised at church's yard and bake sale

Steve Hardaker
Community Correspondent

After two years when all church activities were cancelled due to the coronavirus, the members of St. Davids-Queenston United Church held their first yard and bake sale, post-pandemic this past Saturday.

The organizers of the sale declared it a tremendous success. During their Sunday worship service, activities committee member and organizer of the sale, Nancy Lang told the congregation over \$2,800 was raised.

She said there had been a steady flow of shoppers all day.

Fundraising activities help the church to conduct outreach programming within the church as well as throughout the community.

Members had dropped off gently used household items at the church during the week, from bicycles and golf clubs to crystal stemware and ornaments.

And while the larger items were individually priced, shoppers were encouraged to fill a cardboard box with items for \$10.



Rev. YongSeok Baek joins volunteers Marianne McRae, Sue Foss and Judy Kerr during the St. Davids-Queenston United Church yard and bake sale on Saturday. LINDA HARDAKER

Members of the United Church Women had home baking of popular items for the bake sale. The table was sold out by the end of the day.

Fundraising activities like

these are an opportunity to reach outside the walls of the church into the community around it to showcase the church and engage in fellowship activities while at the same time raising

money to support both the operational and capital budgets.

Steve Hardaker has lived in Glendale for over 11 years and is active in many community organizations.

Ultimate Convenience and more usable space

- Solid wood drawers
- Dovetail corners
- Ball bearing glides
- Full extension
- Installed one day



Locally Owned and Operated

Flair

ROLLOUTS

Call for a **FREE** consultation **905-682-6000**

Cell: 905-933-8488 | Email: FlairRollouts@outlook.com
www.flairrollouts.com

Did you know?

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

The ink is also vegetable-based.



WALLY'S AUTO ADVICE

"Summer season is around the corner. Make sure you have the right tires on — It protects your winter tires, it's easier on your vehicle and even saves on gas."

CAUGHILL

UTOMOTIVE

FULL SERVICE REPAIR SHOP

Visit Wally today!

Wally has run the **family business** in NOTL his whole life, taking over from his father.

Locally owned and operated, Caughill Automotive has been serving the Niagara area since 1947. Stop in and support local!

- General Repairs
- Brakes & Suspension
- Electrical Diagnostics
- Engine Light Scans
- Batteries & Tires

SEASONAL TIRE CHANGE SPECIAL!

Tires on rims \$39.95
Tires installed & balanced \$89.95



905-687-9456
www.caughillauto.com
256 East & West Line
Niagara-on-the-Lake

Plus meet Patch the shop cat!



COMMENT

Mother's Day on the Niagara Parkway and in the Kyiv subway



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
Columnist
The Lake Report

The luck of the Canadians or the resilience of the Ukrainians? Sometimes, life is overwhelmingly a matter of luck and timing.

On a perfect weather Sunday afternoon for Mother's Day last weekend, I rode my bike from Old Town out along the Niagara Parkway trail toward Queenston. People alone and in pairs and in groups were enjoying the day, often with a guest of honour being thanked for being a mother.

Walking, cycling, sitting, taking in some fresh air on our peaceful Parkway trail, with the mighty Niagara draining the Great Lakes down in the gorge. So many lucky Canadians and visi-

tors, everyone one of them feeling safe and secure.

Children playing catch and tag, soccer and Frisbee. The picnic tables all in use, some with table cloths and flowers.

Aromas of food, all types, from curries to barbecued cheeseburgers, and everything in between.

Too bad, but the public washrooms near McFarland House were all "Closed for the Season." Sheesh.

Thank goodness for willow trees and oak trees and creative parents with desperate kids.

And a special shout out to Walker's Market, which was open for business, and open for relief. Doing a land office business selling fresh produce, beverages and ice cream cones.

The Tcherniauski family from Niagara Falls had it all happening on the grass near McFarland House. Dad and two kids playing on the swings, mom and a toddler at a table.

They gave me pause for thought and we talked briefly about their Ukrainian families over in Europe.

"Luckily, they are all living in other countries, and



The Tcherniauski family from Niagara Falls celebrate Mother's Day 2022 on the Niagara Parkway near Walker's Market. Sippy cups, bubbly, a bouquet of roses, glazed chocolate cake from Sobey's and perfect peace. Meanwhile many people in Ukraine are hiding from the horrors of war in underground subway stations and bombed buildings. ROSS ROBINSON

as far as we know, everyone is safe."

They read the newspapers, watch television news and check social media trying to keep up with the latest news from Ukraine. They worry – and they help in whatever way possible.

The Tcherniauskis were organized, dressed for the sunny but cool day on the Parkway. A happy young

Canadian family.

They had food in a wicker basket, sandwiches, beverages including bubbly for a toast to mom, and a bouquet of gorgeous red roses in a large vase. A glazed chocolate cake was ready, and a toddler finger had already had an advance tasting when nobody was watching.

It really was an idyllic scene, but my mind

returned again to Ukraine and Kyiv.

Families huddled in underground subway stations, cold, hungry, without toilets, thirsty, hearing and feeling the thunder of war. Shattered, ruined, burned-out buildings, no place to shelter from the cold and wet. Brave children crying. Loving parents comforting.

And here we are in

Canada, trying to figure out which political parties and politicians will do the best to take care of us in the future.

Our Canadian maple leaf flags fly proudly across our land and, as of last Sunday, in front of the Canadian embassy in Kyiv.

This whole world doesn't seem fair. It isn't.

MAC INC.

#1 HIGHEST AVERAGE SALE PRICE IN THE ENTIRE NIAGARA REGION*

January 2021-May 2022

*Based on MLS statistics from the Niagara Realtors Association. Highest residential sale price in the Niagara Region, for years JAN 2021 - May 2022

CALL TODAY AND SEE WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU!

905.380.6754

REVEL.

Golf leagues get back into the swing of things

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Leagues are back in full swing for another season of friendly and fun competition at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club.

In the WOOFs Tuesday men's league on May 10, Rick Janes led the way, winning low gross with a 2-over 38. Doug Dineley took low net with a 37.

Garry Stuggins won the hidden hole (#9) while Rai Lauge was closest to the pin on #4.

Martin Vagners took home \$67 in the 50/50 draw.

In the women's 18 hole league on Tuesday, Louise Robitaille had the low gross score with 82, while captain Valerie Chubey was low net winner at 72, and broke 90 for the first time, shooting an 89.

Cash winners for fewest putts were Yolanda Henry, Gayle Tanner and Lisa Allen, while in the putting contest Carolyn Porter went five for five to win.

Several women had chip-ins: Brenda Bell (#1), Chris Walker (#2), Chubey (#13) and Marilyn Cochrane (#18).



Men's champ James Grigjanis-Meusel. RON PLANCHE FILE PHOTO

"Hit the Fairway" on the fourth hole was the game of the day Tuesday for the nine hole women's league.

Winners were: Margot Hickson, Wilca Lay, Bonnie Lamourie, Suzanne Rate, Sharon Allen, Jill Planche, Suzanne Watson and Carole Matheson.

Top low gross scorers were Diana Dimmer (40), Cathy Saytar (46) and Suzanne Watson (47).

The popular Thursday men's league is jam-packed

with 162 registered participants this year. To accommodate so many players, the club needs 2:15 and 5 p.m. shotgun starts and tee times earlier for some groups.

Organized team competitions and other contests will begin in June.

In week 1, reigning men's open champion James Grigjanis-Meusel continued his dominance, winning low gross honours.

In week 2 on May 5, he repeated the feat, tying for

first with Jim McMacken with a 1-over 37. Bob Lowe was the winner under Stableford scoring, with 22 points.

Other week 2 men's prize winners were Ricky Watson (longest drive on #3 and longest putt made on #5), Oleh Hrycko (closest to the pin on #4) and McMacken (closest to the pin #9). Net skins were scooped by Grant Williams (#8) and Bernard Marlow (#9). No gross skins were won.

Did you know?

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

The ink is also vegetable-based.

We attract **Toronto buyers** to get you **top dollar for your home!**

We are a member of the **Toronto Real Estate Board.**

FREE HOME EVALUATION

905-641-0308

#1 Real Estate Team**	#3 RE/MAX Team Canada†
#1 on Google Trends***	#5 RE/MAX Team Worldwide†
#1 in Client Service***	#6 Toronto Real Estate Board**
#1 in Web Traffic***	Million-dollar marketing system!

Visit **RobGolfi.com** today!

Call the brand that gets your home **NOTICED!**

RE/MAX

Based on unit sales and \$ volume of closed transactions in RAHB Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2021. †Source: RE/MAX LLC rankings for Large Team Residential Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2021. *Based on Unit sales and \$ Volume of closed transactions in TREB Jan 1 - Dec. 31, 2021. *Rob Golfi, Sales Representative. RE/MAX Escarpment Golf Realty Inc., Brokerage. Independently owned and operated.



Have some fun



Across

- 1. Egg-shaped (4)
- 4. Occurring after one's death (10)
- 9. Kind of engineer (10)
- 10. First son of Adam and Eve (4)
- 11. Six (4-5)
- 13. Also-ran (5)
- 16. Garment of ancient Rome (4)
- 17. Nobles (5)
- 21. Accustom (5)
- 22. Sailor (7)
- 23. Caterpillar (5)
- 24. Paces (5)
- 27. Harmonize (4)
- 30. Plot of ground (5)
- 33. Monarch (9)
- 35. Old Peruvian (4)
- 36. Immeasurably deep (10)
- 37. Overstate (10)
- 38. Indifferent (2-2)

Down

- 2. Small community (7)
- 3. Satan (7)
- 4. Portion of time (6)
- 5. Small bag (6)
- 6. Consecrated (4)
- 7. Former Portuguese territory in S China (5)
- 8. Join (5)
- 12. Name of a thing (5)
- 13. Dens (5)
- 14. Gravy (5)
- 15. Staggers (5)
- 17. Coral builder (5)
- 18. White heron (5)
- 19. Shatter (5)
- 20. Golf clubs (5)
- 25. Lattice (7)
- 26. Winged horse (7)
- 28. Against (6)
- 29. Previously (6)
- 31. Addition (5)
- 32. Loud, resonant sound (5)
- 34. Showing unusual talent (4)

Crossword Puzzle

1	2		3		4		5		6		7		8	
9											10			
11									12		13		14	
									16					
17		18		19							21			
23												24	25	26
30	31		32											
35														
37														38

Last issue's answers

O	F	T	E	N		G		S	T	R	I	P
O	X				D	R	O	O	P		R	D
A	R	M	A	D	A	B		S	H	E	K	E
E	M				U	N	I	F	I	E		A
L	I	V	I	N	G					C	A	T
G	N				H	E	A	T	H	O		
I	N	F	E	C	T	C	O	P	P	O	S	E
E					E	X	T	R	A			T
D	R	A	W	E	R	E		N	A	S	S	A
A					I	N	D	I	A			I
P	A	T	R	O	N				L	E	A	V
B	A	T	R	L	O	U	S	Y				M
M	A	N	I	L	A				S	W	E	D
F	O				W	H	E	R	E			S
S	T	O	R	Y								N
												E
												N
												E
												S

7									6	4	2			
		3	8	1								9		
			4	2									5	
			5	9	1	8	7							
6									4	1				
	6								9	5	1			
	7	1	8											6



FREE HOME EVALUATION!

CALL OR TEXT GREG DIRECT
905.329.3484

- GREG OFFERS:**
- Strategic advertising
 - Stunning photography
 - Professional videos
 - Expertly designed print collateral
 - Greg lives locally
 - Dedicated property page on the WALL STREET JOURNAL website



COMING SOON

Uncompromising quality!
Call for details!

LISTED

6 Brown's Point - \$3,995,000
6 bedrooms, 8 bathrooms, over 11,000 ft.

GREG SYKES real estate TEAM



JEFF WHITE* DEBI CHEWERDA* GREG SYKES* CAMERON JONES* SHANNON LEIGH BEATTIE*

New RiverBrink exhibit is a 'Labour of Love'

Maddy Gordon
Special to The Lake Report

Queenston's RiverBrink Art Museum is hosting a new family-friendly exhibition.

"Labour of Love" has its official opening reception on Thursday, May 12, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The exhibition features a collection work by Niagara photography artist Danny Custodio and delves into themes of family, labour and the immigrant experience in Canada.

Originally from Toronto but now living in St. Catharines, Custodio is second-generation Portuguese and is highlighting his family history through his work featured in this project.

The exhibition is also showcasing his new artistic series called "Potions," which he developed with his children. The series presents photos of magical elixirs that his family designed and brewed together.

"Labour of Love" includes a workshop with Custodio on May 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Potions #8, 2021. SUPPLIED

The workshop will first allow participants to receive an artist-led tour through the exhibit and then will give people the opportunity to create their own potions similar to those seen in his work.

Participants will be making their potions with materials gathered from the grounds of RiverBrink and can also have a Polaroid photo taken of their creations to take home.

The workshop is designed for ages 5 to 12, but anyone of any age is encouraged to join.

The cost is \$35 per registrant or \$105 for a family bundle, including up to four registrants. All materials used in the workshop are included.

To RSVP to the reception, visit riverbrink.org.

Royal Oak students fundraise for summer camp

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

It's a great thing to see people helping each other and even better to see kids helping kids.

Last Saturday the students from Royal Oak School in Niagara-on-the-Lake were out in force selling coffee and baked goods to raise money so their classmates could attend camp with them this summer.

"Camp is the place where there's lots of kids and there's a lot of fun games. You get to go canoeing, I'm pretty sure, and you get to hang out with your friends and you get to sing songs and a lot of fun stuff like that," student Zara Phillips, 9, said out front of the school.

Royal Oak tries to organize a camp getaway for students every year.

"It's one of those opportunities where we can be together as a group out in nature bonding at the end of the school year," head of school Julia Murray said. "Having this outdoor education model, it's really a great



Royal Oak students sell cupcakes and juice.

way to end the school year."

The school will be taking the kids to a camp in Muskoka from June 7 to 10. Grades 4 to 7 will be participating, about 35 kids, Murray said.

More than 20 students were out and about on Saturday to raise money for their classmates.

"It's really nice to have a lot of students volunteering today just to put the money that they earn back into the hat and help the families," Murray said.

Helping their classmates was something all the kids could get behind.

"There have been steps taken for kids that can't go to camp. So, those costs will be reduced, which allows all of us to have

more time at camp and more kids will be able to go because of the money we've raised," said Mia Phillips, 12.

This is the first camp trip the school has been able to do since the beginning of the pandemic, Murray said. "We've been waiting for two years to do this," she said.

Royal Oak has been expanding over the years and the school now occupies the entire top floor of the old NOTL hospital, Murray said.

"When we were dealing with COVID we wanted to have more space in our classrooms as well as larger classrooms and the town was really supportive. We knocked down some walls, we doubled our space and we are using it very well."

One thing she was particularly proud of is the school's efficient asynchronous learning system, developed during the pandemic to ensure students who cannot attend class in person do not fall behind.

"We all know how much learning time has been lost over the last two years but

that hasn't really happened here," Murray said.

"All of the classrooms have smart TVs as some students have been learning from home for two years. Some are immunocompromised," she said.

"What's great is they've been able to be a part of our programming (at home) but then they come for recess, they come for gym, they come for opportunities like this and so there's still that social engagement in learning with their classroom community."

Adapting to COVID-19 means the school is better able to handle student absences due to illness in the future.

"If these kiddos ever need to stay home to isolate, they're not missing more days of school," she said.

Students were selling treats outside the old hospital site and at Hendriks Independent Grocer.

They will be back out again on May 21, fundraising in the same locations. So feel free to grab your morning coffee from the kids at Royal Oak and help them create summer camping memories.

LOCALLY GROWN ASPARAGUS

fresh daily

• OPEN •

Monday - Saturday

11am - 6pm

Sunday 11am - 3pm



Thwaites Farms
1984 Townline Rd./Firelane 11,
Niagara-on-the-Lake



EXPLORING PHOTOS
WITH NOTL MUSEUM



Queenston Heights 'Port Folio'

This print is from the American magazine "Port Folio," published in Philadelphia 1809-1827. The magazine included engravings and aquaprints that are among some of the earliest images of North American that were available to the public. This print, originally by William Strickland, shows Queenston Heights with a faint path leading up the escarpment. The path was part of the portage route that helped move goods around Niagara Falls during a time when our rivers and lakes were the main highways. The first portage route was on the east side (American side) but the west-side route was established in Queenston around 1788 by Robert Hamilton. Many businesses were formed to support the portage system, which led to the growth of Queenston. Learn more about the portage route when the exhibition, "All Along the Waterfront," opens May 18.

ARCHITEXT

A treasure that needs saving

Brian Marshall
Columnist



Miss Young's school.
SUPPLIED

I was channel surfing recently and stumbled upon a program that caught my attention.

It was an American story about an individual who has made a career of being a preservationist. In this particular episode, he was disassembling an abandoned, threatened Connecticut house built in the last part of the 18th Century, loading all the component parts (including all of the brick from a four-sided central fireplace/chimney) on a transport for trucking across the country to Idaho.

Once there, he planned to rebuild the house.

Not only did he accomplish what he set out to do, but the interior of the rebuilt dwelling was sympathetically reimagined to meet the needs of a 21st century lifestyle. When completed, the exterior of this home presented as originally built and, by breathing new life

into the interior, he charted a practical path for its continued survival.

As an aside, this process of reimagining (rehabilitating) the interior of an old house is one that requires sensitivity and a deft touch.

Far too often I have seen homeowners and designers attempt to introduce a modern interior in a historic shell. Not only is this ill-advised from a building mechanics perspective, it also introduces a relationship conflict in visual presentation, which detracts from both exterior and interior.

However, much as I admire the rehabilitation and the likelihood that it will enhance the long-term survival of the dwelling, what really struck me was how the entire project demonstrates a profound commit-

ment to saving a piece of history.

Imagine for a moment the financial commitment made, to say nothing of the time invested, in order to ensure one relatively modest piece of built heritage lives on.

Here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, at 630 King St., is an equally modest dwelling. Like its Connecticut sister, the storey-and-a-half house is simple, sheathed with white clapboard with a massive central chimney that services four fireplaces rising through the roof ridge. However, this house is not clapboard on timber frame, but rather log construction.

Thought to be built circa 1816 (Peter Stokes suggested the possibility it may be a pre-war building) by the master carpenter of Fort George, George Young, the house is the only surviving log dwelling in Niagara-on-the-Lake and the oldest of its type in Niagara.

For most of its life, the house sported a rear-wing kitchen addition, which likely was removed when the clapboard cladding was installed to preserve the logs and the dovetail corner joints, but the original footprint as-built still stands.

It is generally known as

"Miss Young's School" since George's daughter operated a "school" (which in today's terms could be considered a private tutoring service) out of the premises.

In the first half of the 19th century, providing this private education to the families who could afford the service would have left an indelible mark on those she taught. As such, it is her name and vocation after which the house is named.

So, here we have a unique surviving example of Niagara's early built heritage in which one woman's activities had a formative impact on local society. By anyone's measure, this is a treasure worth saving ... is it not?

But maybe not, since the house, owned by a GTA resident in the real estate industry, has sat empty and derelict for years.

There is no debating the fact that in today's market the lot, without the heritage-designated house, is a valuable proposition. Which raises the question: is this a case of "demolition by neglect"?

It would seem, Miss Young's School too, needs a saviour.

Looking to the Stars

Big, bold Jupiter grabs your attention for the next 12 months

Jupiter is only in Aries once every 12 years.

Thursday, May 12: Yesterday, Jupiter entered Aries. This is one of the most important transits of the year since Jupiter changes signs every 12 months on average. When that happens, a whole new area of life will come into focus. Suddenly something will require your attention for an entire year. This area of your life (the house where Aries resides in your chart) is where you'll experience Jupiter's expansive energy. Jupiter in Aries is big and bold. This is futuristic energy. Happy birthday to Homer J. Simpson, born May 12, 1956, in Springfield, USA.

Friday, May 13: The sun is conjunct the north node in Taurus. Every year, this sun-north node conjunction reminds us of our purpose, pointing to how far – or how close – we are to who we're meant to be. The transit will not necessarily come with a clear "how-to" type of insight – but it will nevertheless awaken something inside us. Pay attention to what inspires you. This is something you want to pay attention to, develop and grow into. Today, the singer/songwriter with the most Grammys, Stevie Wonder, turns 72.

Saturday, May 14: As the moon moves from Libra into Scorpio, feelings move to centre stage. Mars gets a friendly bump from the north node, bringing light to a future health matter. With a net worth in excess of \$75 billion, Mark Zuckerberg turns 38 today.

Sunday, May 15: Venus in Aries is conjunct Chiron. Venus is about our feelings and how we relate to others and Chiron is the wounded healer. Its role is to bridge what needs integration, so we can find wholeness. To do that, Chiron will trigger repressed or unacknowledged feelings and emotions that require our attention. When our emotional wounds move from the unconscious to the conscious, they also trigger the hurt associated with their sudden acknowledgment. But that's a necessary – and un-

avoidable – part of the healing process. Walter "Turk" Broda, winner of five Stanley Cups and two Vezina Trophies was born on May 15, 1914.

Monday, May 16: Today we have a full moon and a total lunar eclipse. All eclipses have a fated feel – and this lunar eclipse is even more so. This is a total eclipse, which is the most intense and life-changing category of eclipses. It is a south node eclipse and, unlike north node eclipses which come with opportunities, the south node variety are concerned with clearing our past karma. Lastly, the total lunar eclipse makes aspects with all slow-moving planets: it squares Saturn, trines Neptune and Jupiter, sextiles Pluto. Outer planets carry a collective energy and when an eclipse makes aspects with outer planets, the best approach is surrendering to what's been offered, instead of taking a personal stand. It was May 16, 1920, that Joan of Arc was canonized as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church.

Tuesday, May 17: As we continue to digest yesterday's full moon eclipse, the moon, now in Sagittarius, gives us the confidence we want and need. It was May 17, 1875, that the first Kentucky Derby was run. It was won by Aristides in 2:37:75. Last Saturday, long-shot Rich Strike was the big winner, finishing the "Fastest Two Minutes in Sports" in a time of 2:02.61.

Wednesday, May 18: Mars is conjunct Neptune in Pisces. When Mars, the planet of personal will, is conjunct Neptune, the planet of divine guidance and surrender, the message is: don't force your way through. Listen to subtle messages, watch for serendipities and find a higher purpose for your actions. When we're open to receiving guidance, our actions have meaning and impact. Edmonton Oiler sniper Jari Kurri set a record with three goals and two assists in an NHL final on May 18, 1990.

Bill Auchterlonie's weekly podcast, Looking Up to the Stars, is at www.lutts.ca.

Astrology is a form of entertainment, not a science.



All Along the Waterfront

NEW EXHIBIT OPENS MAY 18!

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



Plant the right way so trees, shrubs survive



Joanne Young
Gardening Columnist



It's important to plant trees and shrubs at the proper depth. JOANNE YOUNG

At this time of year, we all seem to get the planting bug.

We just can't wait to get outside and start putting new plants into the ground or into containers, or to start transplanting existing plants in our gardens.

Although planting seems like a straight-forward task for experienced gardeners, from my years of working at a garden centre, I would say the reason many plants do not survive the first season is because of improper planting. Here are a few helpful tips to help you be even more successful.

First, when planting new trees and shrubs, you need to amend the soil. Last week, I wrote about the importance of improving your soil conditions before planting anything.

The success of your garden, especially new plantings, is dependent on the condition of your soil. Remember: "If you feed your soil, your soil will feed your plants."

I often am asked, "When is the best time to improve

your soil?" When planting anything, any time you can amend your soil is a good time. Amending the soil means that you need to improve your existing soil by adding organic matter, such as compost or composted manure. This helps by adding nutrients, upgrading soil structure and by improving drainage. Always mix some of your existing soil with the amendments.

After planting new trees and shrubs, the first thing the plant will do is to send out roots horizontally and start to get established. So, it is important that the planting hole encourages as much root growth as quickly as possible.

Dig the planting hole at least twice as wide as the root ball and just a couple inches deeper than the root ball. Place a couple inches of amended soil mix at the bottom of the hole to the point where the top of the

root ball will sit flush with the finished soil level in the bed. Putting the root ball deeper into the soil than what it was originally growing will kill most plants.

Most plants are now container grown, meaning they have been in a pot since the beginning and just transplanted into larger and larger pots along the way. Since the roots are well established in the pot, you can tap on the rim of the pot and usually the root ball will just slide out.

Because the plant has been growing in the plastic pots, the roots will be used to growing in a circular pattern. Therefore, carefully loosen the roots all around the root ball.

If the plant is root bound, with roots growing tightly around the outside of the root ball, use a knife or shears to loosen up the root mass on sides and bottom. Otherwise, the roots will

continue to grow in that circular pattern and begin to choke itself.

Before placing the plant in the hole, add in an organic fertilizer that is high in phosphorus, such as bone meal. Begin filling in around the plant with the amended soil mix.

Water well before the hole is filled to remove air pockets, then water again when the planting is complete. Make sure you do not place any additional soil over the top of the original root ball.

Apply no more than two inches of mulch on top of the root ball. Be sure to keep the mulch a couple finger widths away from the base of the plant.

So just remember: always green side up and have fun planting.

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

The morel of the story

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Spring is here and with it comes a precious time of year for fungi fanatics — morel season.

It's a small window of time, about three weeks at the beginning of May, when these tasty, rare, beautiful mushrooms make their brief appearance.

Across Niagara, mushroom foragers are out trying to get their share of the crops. But it's a difficult

task, one that often requires patience and sometimes kilometres of walking to find just a few.

You won't find any hints here — the mushroom people wouldn't be very happy. As one puts it, it's very much like hunting or fishing — the less people that know, the better.

But if you're determined, with a bit of research, you can figure out some of the more likely spots.

Just make sure to forage on public land.



Morel mushrooms grow in a secret location in NOTL. They're a prized spring treat for foragers. RICHARD HARLEY

Obituary & In Memoriam



Memorial Service

The family of Catherine Irene Edwards (Duggan) would like to invite you to a Memorial Mass Service to celebrate her life. The service will take place on Monday, May 23, 2022 at 10 a.m. at Saint Vincent de Paul Church, 73 Picton St., Niagara-on-the-Lake

Douglas Garrett



GARRET, Douglas John
May 20, 1927 – February 10, 2022

Doug passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, February 10, 2022 in his 95th year. Beloved husband of Christine who was the love of his life. Loving father of David Garrett (Christine), Paul Garrett (Colleen), and Kelly Atalick (Nick). Papa leaves behind many grandchildren and

great-grandchildren. Doug was an avid golfer and club champion at Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club for many years. He was a lover of all sports, told the best stories, his laughter could fill a room, and will be missed by many. He was a member of Niagara Lodge, past Mason, and a member of the Niagara Legion Branch 124, received Sports Wall of Fame Award 2019. Cremation has taken place. A Legion and Masonic Service will be held at 4 p.m. on Thursday May 19, 2022 at Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent St., Niagara-on-the-Lake. Close friends and family are invited to a Celebration of his Life on Friday, May 20, 2022 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club, 143 Front St., Niagara-on-the-Lake. A private family interment will take place at St. Mark's cemetery. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



Did you know?

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

The ink is also vegetable-based.



Advertising inquiries?
Email advertising@niagaranow.com



Pauline Reimer Gibson
Audiologist

Pauline Reimer Gibson is an Audiologist with over 20 years of experience who loves helping people of all ages in the community. Julia Dick is the Front Office Coordinator and a longtime resident of Virgil. Call Julia today to book a complimentary hearing test.

Book a complimentary hearing test today at 905.468.9176

504 Line 2 Road, Virgil ON

A global leader in hearing healthcare.



REYNOLDSREGIER.COM



BORN & RAISED

THE REAL ESTATE ADVANTAGE



TEXT OR CALL

905-401-8874 (MICHELLE) 289-257-6744 (STEFAN)



REYNOLDSREGIER.COM

MICHELLE REYNOLDS
BROKER

905-468-4214

STEFAN REGIER
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

