



STAMPEDE STORMS BACK

Rain, sun, food and fun made Virgil fair a huge success

Good time had by all
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Honouring our volunteers
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After COVID cancelled it for two years, the Virgil Stampede was the place to be on the weekend as thousands flocked to the three-day fair. EVAN SAUNDERS

Early provincial polls are open

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Advance polls are open until Saturday and the votes are already pouring in as the June 2 Ontario provincial election campaign draws to a close.

The Niagara Falls riding, which includes Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie, has one of its busiest ballots in years, with seven different candidates vying for the seat in next Thursday's vote. Incumbent Wayne Gates is running again for the New Democratic Party.

Gates has been MPP since 2014 and won the 2018 election by a 15-point margin. Bob Gale is running on behalf of the Progressive Conservatives, who were second four years ago. Ashley Waters is running

Continued on Page 3



New Democrat Wayne Gates (incumbent), Progressive Conservative Bob Gale and Liberal Ashley Waters are the frontrunners for the Niagara Falls riding provincial seat.

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Radar reveals 28 graves, 19 headstones in historic Black cemetery

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



Jim Russell is taking the lead on researching the names of the people buried in the cemetery, but he expects the research will still take a long time. EVAN SAUNDERS

Work that started in April to locate the burial plots in the historic Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground in Old Town has already yielded some important results.

“We finally got the scan report and (radar technician Steve Watson) had a heck of a time because he found 19 buried headstones and 28 graves,” Jim Russell said in an interview on Wednesday.

Russell, who is organizing and paying for the project, said he had previously heard estimates that some 19 graves might be located in the cemetery, formerly known as the Negro Burial Ground.

But there were some concerning discoveries as a result of the ground penetrating radar work as well. “The other thing (Watson)

mentioned, which is kind of scary, is that a significant number — I think it was about seven or eight — graves butted the property line,” Russell said.

He said graves had been found that spilled over into neighbouring residential properties to the west, the

property line of The Lake Report’s office and even into the paved parking lot of the plaza next door.

“He mentioned it could be that the graveyard was actually larger and that there are people buried either under the asphalt of the Subway (restaurant) or in people’s

backyard. He said it was unusual for graves to be that close to a property line.”

Russell has employed NOTL historian Ron Dale to help find information about whether the property lines have shifted over the years so that the neighbouring properties now encroach on the graveyard.

The large number of buried headstones means the work Russell is doing could take a new and significant step.

He has already been in touch with an archeologist about getting the proper permits to possibly dig up the buried headstones. These could be invaluable for his overarching goal: identifying the individuals buried there.

“The question is are (the headstones) going to be readable?” Russell said.

“They’ve been maybe down there for 100 years and they’re limestone.

Evidently, limestone doesn’t hold up well.”

But if they are readable, digging up the graves will reduce the number of individuals who need to be identified from 28 to nine.

Russell said he spoke with Lord Mayor Betty Disero about the prospect of archeological work in the burial ground and that she was supportive. He will be presenting his findings and updated plans to town council on June 6, tentatively.

There were some further difficulties for the technicians when it came to analyzing the results of the radar scan.

“The topsoil has been disturbed. (Watson) was looking for columns. When you dig a grave you basically have walls and the grave goes down,” Russell said.

“But he was saying that, for some reason, whether that be landscaping or someone perhaps using the

graveyard to grow crops or a garden, the topsoil — the top, say, about a foot — has been disturbed.”

“So it was difficult for him to see the images he was looking for.”

A NOTL resident has also reached out to Russell to offer to help setting up a GoFundMe page for the project. So far, Russell has paid nearly \$3,000 out of his own pocket to get the work done.

Russell and his wife will be in Old Town next Tuesday laying out a grid on the burial ground so the graves can be located.

He said he is satisfied with how things are progressing and is awaiting a response from McMaster University’s Canadian Baptist Archives for help researching records that may reveal a little more about the early Black Canadians who planted their roots in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Rand Estate subdivision virtual public meeting scheduled for June 9

Staff
The Lake Report

A virtual public meeting on June 9 will be the next forum for residents to voice their opinions about Solmar (Niagara 2) Inc.’s planned subdivision on the Rand Estate.

Members of the local advocacy group Save Our Rand Estate, also known as SORE, expressed their frustration that the public meeting will be virtual.

“SORE continues to believe that an in-person meeting, such as the one the town held in early 2018 on

the Marotta Rand hotel that attracted an overflow crowd of some 800 people, is a much superior way for the town to solicit public input,” the group said in a media statement.

Nevertheless, the group said many of its members will be speaking at the

virtual meeting and encouraged all residents who want to share their view on the subdivision to do likewise.

The initial application for the subdivision consisted of 125 single-detached dwellings and 66 semi-detached homes, according to SORE. Solmar has submitted an

updated application that includes 39 single-detached dwellings, 26 semi-detached and 107 townhouses, SORE added. Access to the development would be via a privately owned road.

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 9 at 6 p.m.. Anyone who wishes to

speak at the meeting must register in advance with the town at clerks@notl.com.

Written comments can be submitted to the same email address and should include a reference to files OPA-02-2020, ZBA-11-2020 and 26T-19-20-01, according to SORE’s statement.

Get moving: Registration opens for 2022 NOTL Step Challenge

Staff
The Lake Report

Step right up, folks. The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s 2022 Step Challenge hits the ground ... walking ... on Monday, June 6, and participants can register online now.

The fitness and fun competition is open to anyone who lives or works in Niagara-on-the-Lake — and last year 178 people, including couples, families and co-workers, took part.

The Town of NOTL, which organizes the Step Challenge, anticipates even more people will participate this June.

Last year the town initially set a goal of 20 million



Sheri and Patrick Ruby walk near Ryerson Park in Niagara-on-the-Lake during last year’s Step Challenge. FILE PHOTO

total steps for participants but walkers hit 25 million steps by about the halfway point. So, the goal was doubled to 40 million — and

steppers managed to log a phenomenal 50,232,770 paces.

“The Step Challenge is one of my favourite events

the town hosts,” Lord Mayor Betty Disero said in the official announcement of the 2022 version.

“We have seen such great participation each year and I hope to see Niagara-on-the-Lake steppers out again, enjoying the weather and getting their steps in on the town’s beautiful trails and paths.”

Registration closes on Sunday, June 5, and the challenge officially ends on June 30.

Results and participation are tracked via the MoveSpring app. In 2021, many participants connected on the app to share stories of different ways the Step Challenge helped to engage and connect the commu-

nity and promote healthy lifestyles.

With the upcoming Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games, there is a new feature called a Group Virtual Race challenge which invites participants to navigate through a virtual themed map based on a total distance goal.

The Group Virtual Race allows participants to move through the map and unlock fun milestones along the way with details and information about the Summer Games, the town said in a news release.

“The Step Challenge always comes at the perfect time as a way to kickstart summer in a healthy and active manner,” said chief

administrator Marnie Cluckie.

“Last year, we noticed how much this challenge helped participants get outside and engage in some friendly competition amid the pandemic,” she said, adding it is hoped that will continue.

The town is seeking partnerships with area businesses and organizations to promote and sponsor the challenge. Those wishing to donate prizes such as gift cards, goodies or swag can email stepchallenge@notl.com.

Prizes will be awarded weekly and upon completion of the challenge. Details of prize categories are available at notl.com.

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Health care and **cost of living** are among the riding's top concerns, candidates say

Continued from Front Page

as the Liberal candidate and Tommy Ward for the Green Party.

Rounding out the ballot are three newer parties: Devon St. Denis-Richard of the None of the Above Democratic Party, Christine Lewis-Napolitano of the New Blue Party of Ontario and Wesley Kavanaugh of the Ontario Party.

Gates made time for a phone interview, while Gale and Waters responded to questions via email.

What do you deem one of the biggest issues facing Niagara-on-the-Lake and how will you address it?

NDP

Incumbent Wayne Gates, Gale and Waters all considered the cost of living as a major issue.

Gates also addressed healthcare— “that will start with reversing the decades of Liberal and Conservative cuts to health care Niagara,” Gates said in a phone interview on Tuesday.

He said the NDP will repeal Bill 124, which capped the amount a nurse could get for a raise and “negatively impacted registered nurses, nurse practitioners and health care professionals,” the Ontario Nurses’ Association website states.

Gates said he would help bring dental and mental health under OHIP coverage.

In terms of affordability, Gates said the NDP would cap the price of gas and ban gouging as well as reduce auto insurance rates by 40 per cent.

He said the NDP would sell hydro at cost instead of for profit.

Progressive Conservatives

Gale and Waters said the biggest issue is affordability.

“I have had the opportunity to speak with many Niagara-on-the-Lake residents, and it is clear that the cost of living is top of mind,” he said.

“Only Doug Ford and the PCs will get it done by rebuilding the economy, working for workers, building highways and key infrastructure and keeping costs down.”



MPP Wayne Gates, seeking re-election, sees health care and affordability as some of his top concerns. FILE PHOTO

He said Tory gas tax and licence sticker fee cuts are saving the average taxpayer \$465 this year.

Liberals

In an email, Ashley Waters said the cornerstone of the Liberals’ affordability plan is slashing transit fees to \$1.

She said the party will remove the HST on prepared meals under \$20, implement a 20 per cent increase on the Ontario Disability Support Program and transition toward a liveable wage.

“We’ve thought about how to drive down costs and create an Ontario that people can afford to live in.”

Residents in long-term care homes disproportionately suffered throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. How will you work to ensure our residents in long-term care homes are better provided for in the future?

NDP

“The Ford government has left long-term care in shambles,” Gates said.

“Right now (the number of long-term care residents who died from COVID’s) around 4,800. That’s 4,800 of our parents, our grandparents, our aunts and uncles who died with COVID in the last two years.”

“Some of the reasons that happened is that Ford was cutting long-term care funding before the pandemic even started.”

Gates said one of the main drivers of high deaths was the Ford government’s removal of paid sick days as employees had no choice but to go into work when they were sick because they “couldn’t afford to take a day off.”

“Ford focused on protecting for-profit care home operators,” he said.

“He even put out a bill, if you can imagine, (that shielded long-term care corporations) from lawsuits from having neglected and left residents to die alone without proper care.”

Gates pledged to “put every single dollar in a publicly funded system that goes to care.”

“Our seniors, they built this province, they built this country. This is how I feel about it. We need to make sure that our parents, our grandparents are getting the best care.”

Gates said the NDP is planning to create a new legal fund accessible to any resident or family who had their legal case against a long-term care home corporation derailed by the Ford legislation.

Progressive Conservatives

“Under the previous Liberal government, propped up by the NDP, only 611 long-term care beds were built across the province, which is shameful,” Gale said in an email.

“The PC government is building over 30,000 new beds in long-term care and rebuilding nearly 30,000 more, which is taking the strain off of our hospitals.”

Liberals

“In the past year, we have seen elders suffer in horrifying conditions, to the point that our military had to be called in. This heartbreaking memory should not be allowed to fade,” Waters said.

The Liberals would end for-profit long-term care by 2028, ensure seniors have access to home health care, fund 15,000 new assisted living homes and implement audits on long-term care homes, she said.

Do you think a municipality should have mobility to approach and even

restrict planning and development based on local characteristics or is that too heavy-handed?

NDP

“We live in one of the prettiest little towns in Ontario — maybe in all of Canada,” Gates said.

“We have to make sure that we’re going to protect our planning and our heritage and that we do it smartly.”

Gates criticized the PC government for a plan to build Hwy. 413 through the Greenbelt.

“I’m going to continue to challenge Doug Fords’ development at all costs, quite frankly, and champion smart development that protects the unique character of the town.”

Gates said he is proud of the fact that he has aligned himself in the past with heritage advocates and successfully fought against the Ford government’s attempts to “carve up the Greenbelt.”

Progressive Conservatives

“While the Liberals and NDP are more interested in currying favour from downtown activists, we are going to build more homes,” was part of Gale’s response to the question.

“At the end of the day, the biggest issue fuelling the housing crisis is not enough homes. It’s shocking that the NDP disagrees that the solution to making homes more affordable is building more homes,” he said.

Liberals

Waters said residents and municipalities know best how to develop their towns and the Liberals would empower them and provide \$300 million in funding.

She said her party will work to increase building on brownfield zones and allow homes with three units and two storeys to be built in residential areas across the province.

“We’ll work to establish housing as a fundamental human right in Ontario and provide people with safe and reliable shelter.”

Waters touted hefty investments in housing projects and a homelessness census to better understand people’s housing needs.

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Stampede marks a happy spring of post-COVID life for NOTL kids

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

It went from blistering hot to pouring rain throughout the course of the long weekend. But there was one constant – people were having a blast at the Virgil Stampede.

“It is so nice to be back here after COVID,” Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Lisa Alfarano said after playing a fishing game with her two children.

“Look what I got,” her daughter Paige Young said as she waved a pink fairy wand in the air.

Paige won the prize for her stellar fishing abilities at one of the many parlour games at the Stampede.

And why did she choose that particular prize? Paige had a simple answer.

“Because I love it,” she said and held her toy close to her.

Paige and her brother Jason Young both said their favourite part of the fair was the slides.

Alfarano is a longtime resident of NOTL and said the Stampede had been greatly missed during the past two years of the pandemic.

“It’s great to be here and it’s his first time,” Brad Wiens said about his son Wes Wiens.

“He was born in 2019, right before the world shut down.”

“I got this,” Wes said as he held up a toy he won at the Whac-A-Mole game. Wiens held his small son in his arms while Wes hammered away at the moles.

There were a plethora of great activities at the Stampede this weekend. Kids and adults alike could be seen enjoying the games, dining on hot dogs, onion rings and french fries, holding snakes and lizards, and going on amusement park and pony rides.

There was also a professional skateboarding demonstration hosted by West49 Inc., with about 10 skaters tearing up the park at the Stampede.

And it wasn’t all surfer dudes with wavy hair who were carving the cement. Indeed, one of the most active boarders there was 12-year-old Fay Ebert from Toronto.



Kids scream while they enjoy one of the rides at the Virgil Stampede. EVAN SAUNDERS



Fay has been skateboarding for four years and said she relished the opportunity to make her mark on NOTL’s park. “I like this park, for sure,” Fay said. “It’s nice to skate on a new park that I’ve never skated on before.”

“I really like catching up with friends because a lot of them, I don’t see them at our school. So, it’s really nice to catch up.”

RUBY ELLTOFT

Fay is the youngest member of the Team Canada skateboarding team.

The young skateboarding ambassador attracted quite a crowd of young NOTLers as well.

Watching the skateboard demonstration was more than a dozen of NOTL’s very own youth, friends from Crossroads Public School and Royal Oak School.

The kids called out to a reporter from The Lake Report to take their picture and were practically tripping over each other for a chance to be interviewed about the Stampede.

“I just got here but it’s been really fun,” said 12-year-old Mia Philip, a student at Crossroads.

Asked about her favourite part of the Stampede, her friend Felix Volmer, 12,

interrupted with a witty, “Seeing me.”

Indeed many of the kids there said the best thing about the fair returning was that it gave them a place to hang out after two years of lonely COVID summers.

Felix and his buddy Holden Powell, 12, both said they missed the Stampede greatly during the pandemic shutdowns.

“It’s so nice to be here since it’s been shut down,” said Max Ruller, 12.

“It totally sucked not having the Stampede around,” Max said.

“The Stampede better never end,” said Ruby Eltoft, 13, a student at Royal Oak School.

For Ruby, the weekend was a major social event.

“I really like catching up with friends because a lot of them, I don’t see them at our school. So, it’s really nice to catch up,” she said.

But there was an extra bonus this year, partially spurred on by the two-year gap between Stampedes.

“I’m finally tall enough to go on all the rides,” Ruby said with a big smile.

And rides there were, with a myriad of coasters dotting the grounds.

But one ride stood above all the rest for many young NOTLers.

“The rides are the best and I think my favourite ride is Zero Gravity,” said Hope Herman, 10.

“We’re all in Grade 5 and we’re all 10 years old,” a group of kids yelled out at a reporter after growing tired

of being asked the same question over and over again.

“Zero Gravity is my favourite,” Felix said.

“It’s got to be Zero Gravity,” said Holden.

“I like the games and the rides. My favourite is Zero Gravity,” said Anastasia Ruller, 10, making it unanimous.

Zero Gravity far and away got the most mentions from the group of kids who made the Stampede their home for the weekend and the ride consistently had the longest line. There was barely a minute of the day when it wasn’t in operation.

All this praise begs one question: what’s so good about Zero Gravity? “You can’t feel your face or move your head,” Anastasia said to nods of approval from her peers.

For Fiona Alison, the best part of the Stampede was winning her new stuffed elephant at one of the games.

“His name is Mr. Elephant,” Fiona said.

Hope saw one of her teachers at the Stampede, but said it was not weird to see a teacher outside of the classroom. My, how the times have changed.

One thing was clear from the many NOTL kids The Lake Report interviewed at the Stampede: they were living like kids again.

“Seeing my friends has been the best,” Hope said.

“I like to see all my friends here,” Sophia Ruller said. “We’ve seen a lot of people that we didn’t mean to meet up with.”



From top: 12-year-old skateboarding phenom Fay Ebert wows at the West49 showcase at the Stampede on Saturday. Kids from Royal Oak and Crossroads schools gathered together to hang out at the Virgil Stampede. Brad Wiens helps his son Wes play a game of Whac-A-Mole. Landon Archibald (centre) rides the motorcycle merry-go-round. EVAN SAUNDERS/RICHARD HARLEY



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NOTL Ambassadors embrace rain and visitors

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Sunday's rain and grey skies did nothing to dampen the spirits of the many people out on Queen Street.

It was the perfect day for Niagara-on-the-Lake's Ambassadors to get out and interact with the community.

And that's exactly what they did.

"It's great to be back. I literally flew in last night and I'm happy to be on duty today," three-time ambassador Vlad Haltigin said on Sunday afternoon as he and Lord Mayor Betty Disero walked through Old Town.

Haltigin had just returned from Vancouver where he was visiting his five-week-old granddaughter.

He and Disero introduced themselves to almost every person who walked by with varying results.

Some people were eager to stop and engage with the masked pair dressed all in blue while others, wary eyed and on the move, just kept walking.

Haltigin wasn't at all surprised that the rain didn't keep people away on Sunday.

"Niagara-on-the-Lake has a charm which is unique," he said.

"It's a very welcoming feeling and hopefully we're helping to make people feel even more welcome."

Haltigin, who hails from England, found the mild rainy weather somewhat familiar.

"For me, this is a fine English summer day," he said.



Judy Hampton from Oregon chats with ambassadors Betty Disero and Vlad Haltigin just after the rain abated on Sunday. EVAN SAUNDERS

The ambassador program is run through the Chamber of Commerce and partners with many other enterprises in town, such as the Shaw Guild, Vintage Hotels and the municipality.

The goal of the program is to "provide helpful, accurate and timely information to help you make the most of your Niagara-on-the-Lake experience," the group's website says.

And that could be in the form of letting visitors or even locals know where to enjoy a good steak, sharing a piece of history, or, as is more commonly asked, where to use the bathroom, as Laurie Harley said during a training session earlier this year.

Haltigin said within 15 minutes of starting his ambassador shift he had met people hailing from

all over the world and celebrated NOTL's ability to attract a wide range of international tourists.

One of those visitors was Judy Hampton from Oregon.

"I'm just on a trip, just being a tourist," she said after a brief conversation with Disero and Haltigin.

"We're starting in Toronto and then heading to Montreal," she said.

Hampton was excited to reach her final destination as she had last been to the island city of Montreal when she was only six years old.

Disero said the large volume of Old Town foot traffic was a cause for optimism and positivity about the town's post-COVID economic recovery.

"I see all good things in our future and it's only go-

ing to get better," she said.

Seemingly always in her lord mayor mindset, Disero was quick to address the future of the town as she walked the streets on Sunday.

"As we did at the beginning of the term, we will continue to make sure that planning is targeted and focused towards maintaining a built form and a heritage that we want," she said.

"And also to help build infrastructure but the infrastructure is going to be most important to provide amenities for people to be able to like to live here and also for businesses to really come back stronger," she said.

"I think that's always been our focus and will continue to be our focus. And anyway that I can help, I am here. Count me in."

Reif icewine wins gold at international competition

Staff
The Lake Report

A Niagara-on-the-Lake winery has been honoured with multiple awards at one of the world's top wine competitions.

The 2019 vintage of Reif Estate's Grand Reserve Vidal Icewine won a gold medal and the Canadian Icewine Trophy at the International Wine Challenge in England.

As well, winemak-

er Roberto DiDomenico was shortlisted for Sweet Winemaker of the Year.

"It is always exciting to hear when any of our wines have won a gold medal at a wine competition of this calibre but to receive the news of a trophy and recognition in being short-listed for a winemaker of the year, is beyond every winemaker's dream and truly an honour," DiDomenico said in a media release.

In its 38th year, the International Wine Challenge is considered one of the world's most rigorous, impartial and influential annual wine competitions.

Each year judges assess every wine "blind" and then the wines are tasted again, on at least three other separate occasions.

The judging teams include experts, buyers and influencers from the international wine industry, as well as masters of

wine working to find the highest quality wines from the 52 wine-producing countries represented in the competition.

One of Niagara-on-the-Lake's founding family wineries, Reif opened in 1982.

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

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 95

Region active cases: 840

Region deaths: 560

Region total cases: 40,927

**May 25 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

"Live and work but do not forget to play, to have fun in life and really enjoy it."

- Eileen Caddy

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Kayaking at Queen's Royal



Lake Report contributor Dave Van de Laar captured this photo of Matteo De Luca kayaking the mouth of the Niagara River by Queen's Royal Park on Saturday.



Editorial

Virgil Stampede was the medicine we needed

Richard Harley
Editor-In-Chief

The Virgil Stampede was a blast this weekend. All around, kids and parents alike were enjoying time out in the open air and sun. And a bit of rain.

It was nice to see everyone out again, finally getting back to some sense of normalcy after two years of pandemic pressure.

And for NOTLers, the Stampede is exactly what was needed.

It's a tradition for families across town to head down for some cheap fair food (\$4 peameal sandwiches, \$3 onion rings! Great job, Virgil Business Association) and some family-friendly fun.

There's nothing like a tradition to make you feel like you're at home again.

Seeing groups of kids uniting for what might have



A view from the top of the super slide shows the Centennial Sports Park grounds covered in rides and games for the Virgil Stampede. RICHARD HARLEY

been the first time in two years brought smiles to our faces as we went out taking photos and enjoying the festivities ourselves.

But one thing's for sure: This kind of thing couldn't happen without the generosity of our community

members — and the Virgil Business Association.

With relatively short notice to plan things this year, the group and its army of volunteers pulled off an incredible fair all around.

Volunteers showed up to help run the gates and food

stands — and keep things on an even keel.

Niagara-on-the-Lake's volunteer firefighters helped put on the dazzling display of fireworks Monday night.

Everyone involved deserves a carousel of applause for dedicating their time to make it happen.

Sure, there were a couple of rides that were out of service. Sure, we lost the nickel sale, model air show and bingo this year, but we got some new things, too — like the skateboard show, which drew some big Canadian names.

Luckily, the big storm missed us Saturday as the rest of Ontario got hammered by wind and rain.

But let's face it — everyone from NOTL knows a bit of rain is part of the tradition for the Stampede.

It didn't put a damper on our spirits.

editor@niagaranow.com



Delighted as a visitor to read The Lake Report

Dear editor:

On my recent trip to Niagara-on-the-Lake, I picked up a copy of The Lake Report from a local sub shop, and diverging from my usual online news outlets, I ended up reading it front to back.

I'm writing to let you know that I don't think I've enjoyed reading a newspaper in the last five years, as much as I have yours.

I've spent my entire life in cities and reading your articles gave me a perfect glimpse of what life in

NOTL looks like.

You spoke to your people and it was impressive to see that you included them in the narrative. Being somewhat averse to the news in general, your paper made for a great Saturday read in the midst

of your beautiful, peaceful town.

Thank you for making my day. Keep up the great work you and your staff are doing, and good luck for your work ahead.

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NOTL does **not yet** have an approved official plan

Dear editor:

In Bob Bader's response ("Town passed its new official plan and now it's up to region," May 19) to my recent op-ed, he questions the accuracy of my observations of the town's alleged official plan.

The simple fact is that Mr. Bader is wrong. There is no new official plan. The Region of Niagara has also not held up official plans during its own review process, as evidenced by Welland, Thorold and St. Catharines all adopting new official plans during that process over the past six years.

Our entire "new OP" process was nothing more than political gamesmanship to make it appear something was being done – and virtually everyone has fallen for it. With all due respect to

Mr. Bader, several of our own town councillors were surprised to learn there is no new official plan.

In politics a kernel of truth is often used to create the illusion of an entire story's accuracy.

So, to explain, two months after the council was sworn in, and an interim control bylaw was put in place, the mayor received a letter dated February 2019 from the minister of municipal affairs recommending all towns pause their official plans as new legislation was coming that would need to be incorporated in all new plans.

However, because the interim control bylaw was in place and political promises were made, the town ignored the minister and continued ahead with the

official plan process, wasting staff time and taxpayers' money, to produce a document that had no chance of ever being adopted.

This was highlighted by both the town's director of planning and the town's principal planner advising the council, in writing, that the new plan did not conform to legislation.

Regardless of staff advice, on Aug. 15, 2019, the town held a special meeting where the mayor pressured council to adopt a new official plan.

This was a full six months after Municipal Affairs Minister Steve Clark informed the town that the new plan likely would not conform to updated provincial policy.

In a continuing saga of wasting tax dollars, the

town kept forging ahead and on Oct. 22, 2019, council passed a bylaw adopting the totally flawed official plan.

On Jan. 30, 2020, the region forwarded emailed comments from the province informing the town that its new plan did not meet provincial policy and in February 2020 the plan was kicked back to the town to start over, once it was in conformity to the policies of higher levels of government.

To the best of my knowledge NO town staff have worked on the "new" official plan since February 2020, more than two years ago.

The town is still operating with its 25-year-old official plan, no differently than the last council. It's possible that Planscapes, the town's consultant, may have been

working on the document and billing taxpayers but that would be pointless until the region's plan is approved.

However, none of that matters as far as Bill 108 and second dwelling units are concerned because at any time in the past three years the town could have passed an official plan amendment allowing second dwellings in conformity with Bill 108.

As recently as Sept. 7, 2021, the Town of Pelham passed an amendment to its plan outlining the criteria and allowing secondary dwellings in residential homes. The region and the province both accepted Pelham's amendment.

With respect to my suit against the town,

the matter was heard by three learned justices on April 27, 2022, at the Court of Appeal and should they rule against me then I will pay the town's legal fees as agreed. However, should I win, I promise you I will seek full compensation for every dime of damages caused by a totally politically driven circus.

As an aside, I see Mr. Bader lives in Shaw's Lane: a project we developed several decades ago, a project the naysayers of the day claimed would be the last nail in the coffin of NOTL, a project that went to the Ontario Municipal Board. We won.

Look up. If there is a roof over your head, a developer put it there. You're welcome.

Rainer Hummel
St. Davids

Continually caught in a voters' list **conundrum**

Dear editor:

The good news is I have received a voter information card. The bad news is they've still got my name wrong.

For several elections after I moved here 26 years ago everything went swimmingly.

Then the election gods gifted me a middle initial. I have never had a middle name. When voting at the former Parliament Oak school I always pointed out the error to the returning officer.

I didn't want to be charged with voting under false pretences, did I? I also called the Elections Canada office. Each time I was assured the list was now changed and my old identity

would be back.

Except it wasn't. I can only assume one of the election gods said, "Let's fix this sorehead," so they took me off the list altogether.

Take it from me, if you dutifully tick the box on your income tax return to ensure you are on the voter lists, you're wasting your time. I once recounted my tale of woe to then-MP Rob Nicholson campaigning outside Lococo's.

"Call my constituency office," he said. "They'll straighten it out."

"No," said his assistant on the phone, "we can't have anything to do with the voters' list."

So I had to register every time I went to vote and would be assured that it

would never happen again.

Except it did, reaching ludicrous proportions a couple of elections ago.

It was decreed that voters in the small pocket of Old Town where I live would not vote with everyone else at the community centre but trek outside town to a Hunter Street address. I can see the community centre from my upstairs windows and walk there in under 10 minutes.

Not having a voters card, I went to the community centre anyway. Told that I had to vote where I was registered, I pointed out that I wasn't registered anywhere so why couldn't they register me there?

No dice, since my street address wasn't on the list for

that poll. I said words to the effect of, "So, I have to walk to my house, get in the car and drive back past this poll to get to another poll where I'm not registered anyway."

Yup.

For the first time ever, I didn't vote.

Before the last election I bearded the lion in its den, the Elections Canada office in Niagara Falls. The person in charge went through the usual process and gave the usual assurance. Then she said, "Would you like to vote now?"

Yes, please, I said.

Today's mail at least confirms I am registered to vote. But how did that pesky initial find its way back?

Don Cameron
NOTL



A rendering of the proposed townhouse complex.

Mary Street project is only **two** storeys

Dear editor:

Thank you for your article in the May 19 edition of The Lake Report that profiled the proposed townhouse development on Mary Street.

The reason for my letter is to dispel the misconception that the building is three storeys in height as you mistakenly stated, but is in fact two storeys high.

The building is 9.55 metres high, measured from the finished grade, almost half a metre less than adjacent residential and commercial buildings and less than the 10-metre height that is permitted in both the general commercial and the established residential zones that surround the property.

Every effort has been made to ensure the building is compatible in scale, massing and design with the surrounding neighbourhood and with the heritage

of the Niagara-on-the-Lake community.

There are numerous examples of the gambrel roof in the Old Town and the paint colour chosen is similar to "blue fox," an approved paint colour for the Queen-Picton Heritage District.

It has been acknowledged that three boulevard trees will be lost, however, 11 trees will be planted on the property as part of a detailed landscape plan that also includes a variety of shrubs and perennials.

Although the property is currently designated general commercial, the town's new official plan designates the property as mixed use, permitting residential and/or commercial uses on the site.

We welcome feedback and comments from the community.

Susan Wheeler
Planning consultant
NOTL

As architect, NOTL winery design needs **rethink**

Dear editor:

When I read Christopher Allen's little critique of the proposed design for the new Stone Eagle Winery in the April 14 edition of The Lake Report ("Proposed winery design is overpowering"), I laughed out loud, as I had concluded exactly the same thing.

It does look like a Euro-



A rendering of Stone Eagle Winery plans. SOURCED

pean train station. Being a retired architect I could add: the style is a form of

"mid-20th century authoritarian neoclassicism."

Marla Percy's April 21 let-

ter commenting that the winery resembles a mausoleum seems appropriate as well.

Whatever the description, the design certainly does not say "winery," and even less "Niagara-on-the-Lake."

I really hope the owners and the architect will reconsider the design.

Paul Gordon
NOTL

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Research offers **different take** on planting trees and shrubs

Dear editor:

I have nothing but respect and admiration for Lake Report gardening columnist Joanne Young and the work she does in and for our community.

However, based on peer-reviewed research, I would like to offer a much different approach on how to plant trees and shrubs as we move into planting season.

In order to develop a strong and healthy tree that is not dependent on you for regular watering and feeding, you want to encourage a newly planted tree to flourish in your native soil – the soil in your garden right now.

If you have compacted soil, you might need to loosen it so the roots can penetrate downward.

If you follow the science, best practices involve choosing trees and shrubs well-suited to the site, remove the growing medium as much



The roots encircled the trunk and eventually killed these trees on Victoria Street. SUPPLIED

as possible, correct any root circling to prevent girdling and plant in your unamended native soil. Mulch and water.

Any potting mix should be removed if you are able and placed on the top of the root zone after backfilling with the soil that came out of the hole.

Amending the soil prior to planting trees and shrubs is not supported by any published peer-reviewed research

I can find. I

In fact, this can create a textural barrier between soil types, which will slow water movement and can lead to a perched water table. If you amend soil around the root ball you increase the risk of girdling long term.

When the roots reach the edge of the improved soil they curl back. Roots can be lazy. Why plow into native soil if you can just keep cir-

cling in the easy-to-traverse amended soil?

Adding phosphorus, potassium or other minerals to your soil should only be done if a soil test (the University of Guelph provides an excellent service) or a home test kit (not always as reliable) shows your soil is deficient in one of these minerals.

When Joanne says, “If you feed your soil, your soil will feed your plants,” she is correct. The best way to feed your soil is to top your garden with an inch or so of compost annually and top dress with a couple of inches of mulch.

Mulch around your tree a few feet out from the trunk (at least to the drip line) and never let mulch touch the trunk of the tree or any garden plant.

Repeated studies have shown that arborist mulch is the most beneficial for your soil. Any organic compost should be added to the top of

your soil, not mixed into it.

If in doubt, mimic Mother Nature. Stay away from commercial fertilizers if you can.

When placing your tree in the hole, be sure to keep the root flare above the soil line. Do not assume that planting your new purchase at the same depth as it was in the container is correct.

The root flare must be above the soil for your tree or shrub to flourish. Be vigilant for roots that are growing in a circular pattern.

These become girdling roots and will eventually strangle your tree.

I have included a photo of two eastern redbuds removed on Victoria Street last week. You can see how the roots encircled the trunk and killed the tree.

Only stake your tree if it needs support, needs anchorage (if subjected to constant strong north winds) or needs protection from injury.

For a step by step, easy to read, science based, peer reviewed explanation on tree planting, check out these links: cvc.ca/tree-planting/ or gardenprofessors.com/problems-with-planting-trees/.

For an excellent step-by-step guide, Google “Purdue Extension Tree Installation: Process and Practices (FNR-433-W)”

There are many conflicting and confusing gardening practices out there. If you Google “ext” at the end of your search, you will get better hits. Extension sites from horticultural departments at universities are your best sources.

Brian Capon’s “Botany for Gardeners” (third edition) and Robert Pavlis’ Soil “Science for Gardeners” are good reads.

Happy gardening.
Betty Knight
Master gardener
NOTL

Town needs to **reduce** rural road speeds

Dear editor:

Does Niagara-on-the-Lake do enough for traffic safety?

Over a year ago I wrote to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake regarding my concerns with the speed limits on the town’s rural roads. We have a crazy mix of 60, 70 and even 80 km/h on rural roads in NOTL.

Why is that? The only road that meets province of Ontario highway standards is what is commonly referred to as Highway 55.

When built, it required wide shoulders, a proper granular base and proper thickness hot asphalt, laid in layers.

The area between the wide gravel shoulder and adjacent private property is wide and gradually sloped to the ditch. There are no trees or other obstacles within the zone of the highway.

I drive Concession 1 regularly and have walked sections of it. Quite often I cycle on that road as well.

I am not a transportation expert, but Concession 1 fails the requirements of a provincial highway in every way possible.

It does not have a proper

base (or there would not be crowns in the middle of each driving lane), it has no asphalt (just tar and gravel), there is no proper gravel shoulder.

The ditches are sometimes deep and steeply sloped adjacent to the driving surface, and the tar and gravel is typically breaking away along the edge.

There are ongoing issues with potholes and many have patches on top of patches. Even sections that were “resurfaced” last year are cracking where the old cracks were, especially near the edges.

There is one section south of Line 3 where there is a steel guardrail, with a blunt end facing traffic, that is only about two feet from the edge of the travel surface. No one stands a chance if they have to veer and hit that.

We have three grandchildren ages 2 to 8, who live on Line 6 between Concession 1 and the Niagara Parkway.

Many people use this as a shortcut between east Niagara Falls and Old Town, or from Queenston to Virgil.

That would be fine in itself but you can hear some folks accelerating at either

end and they sometimes hit speeds above 80 km/h. What chance does any pedestrian or cyclist have with vehicles at those speeds running past numerous houses on either side of the road?

Concession 2 has somewhat better conditions than Concession 1 and the speed is sensibly set at a maximum of 70 km/h. It is ridiculous that Concession 1 is an 80 km/h zone

Come on, town council: do something for election year.

Change all rural roads to 70 km/h maximum. Drop it to 60 or 50 in the areas where you have already set it at 70.

But no rural line or concessions should have 80 km/h speed limits. It is not worth the risk of an accident causing injury or even death.

I would even go so far as to suggest that if there was ever a serious incident in one of the 80 km/h zones, the town could be liable due to the speed not being properly set based on the conditions of the roads.

Do not drag your feet any longer on this possible life-saving change.

David Scott
Queenston

What happened to home ‘intruder?’

Dear editor:

As this is the season of elections I would like to draw attention to an incident that occurred a few months ago that might occur to others at anytime.

We live in Niagara on the Green near the Niagara College campus. At 4 a.m. one day I woke early not knowing why and went down to make a coffee in preparation for another business day.

I heard a door open and thought it was my wife wakened by my activity. Then I noticed a shadow at my front door. It was happenstance that I even looked.

I went to the front door as it started to open. I shoved against the door and looked through the window. There was a hooded man standing there, trying to force his way into my house.

My immediate thoughts went to a time when my cardiologist in Toronto told me the story of answering a knock at his door during the day and permitting three Toronto Hydro employees into his house – at least, they professed to be hydro employees.

They took him to his basement, beat him for



drugs – he is doctor – and left him to suffer. He eventually broke free and never spent another night in that house.

These were my thoughts within 30 seconds of the hooded individual trying to force his way into my house.

I immediately called my son, who was visiting, to help me close the door and try to lock it against the intruder.

While we held the door closed, called 911 and secured the front lock, I

watched this idiot – not knowing if he was alone, with a group of hooded bums wanting to break in or whatever his intent – sit down and eventually fall into the driveway and roll into the street.

Here is the point of this story: Two police cars and an ambulance showed up. They chased the intruder into his house apparently and left.

I have no understanding of the consequences of this incident. I could write the chief of police or the lord mayor to ask what happened. But would it not be a simple task, and make more sense, for police to report their findings to the complainant?

This should be standard police procedure in any community – even if it requires an officer to spend time to write a report.

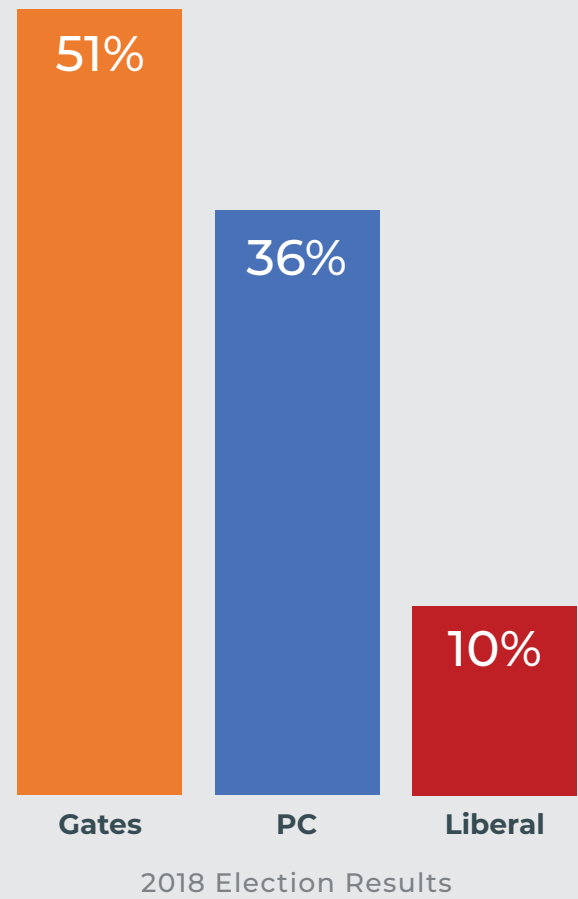
Is this the level of policing and security we can expect from the people we trust to protect us?

No harm was done, but still, every night, I lock my door and expect something to happen. Welcome to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Derek Insley
Glendale

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In NOTL, it's a two-way race - let's re-elect a strong local voice.



RE-ELECT

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HONOURING OUR VOLUNTEERS



Rose Stadelmier, Allon Stadelmier and Linda Nickel were busy collecting admission fees at the front gate on Saturday. PHOTOS BY EVAN SAUNDERS.

Thank you to Virgil Stampede volunteers



Emily Abt, Cory Abt and Debbie Dolha gave their time to make sure people didn't go hungry during the Stampede.

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Virgil Stampede went off without a hitch on Victoria Day weekend and many Niagara-on-the-Lake residents volunteered their time to ensure that happened.

"I have been volunteering with the Stampede for years. It's a great opportunity and such a good event," Coun. Gary Burroughs said

as he manned the gate on Saturday afternoon.

"They do such good work for the whole community. It's about community," he said.

The Stampede has been going on in one form or another for 54 years. It is hosted and funded by the Virgil Business Association.

"They've done some amazing work over the years and that's why I volunteer. Plus, it's fun," he said.

NOTL residents Brun Gossen and Sophia Vollmer were among the many volunteers helping run the food stand.

"It's nice to see all the kids out. It's nice to see the community back together," Vollmer said in an interview.

She has volunteered at three previous Stampedes. It was Gossen's first time and she said she loved being surrounded by the posi-

tive energy exuded by the crowds.

Both Vollmer and Gossen were quick to bring attention to a longtime volunteer for the beloved event.

Gloria Meyer has been working at and volunteering with the Stampede for more than 40 years. Her father, Max Bogusat, was one of the founders of the fair in the 1960s.

Having been involved with the Stampede since

VBA
VIRGIL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

A sincere thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to help with the Virgil Stampede!
We couldn't do it without you.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THIS YEAR'S VOLUNTEERS!
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The Lake Report

Thanks, Volunteers!
You're the real scoop!

Army of fair helpers show spirit of NOTL is strong

she was a kid, Meyer had a slightly different take on the COVID-caused two year hiatus than most.

“I actually enjoyed my two years off,” she said with a laugh. “But it’s good to be back.”

Meyer recalled one particularly rainy May weekend as a teenager where she had to begrudgingly help out at the Stampede.

“It’s great support for the community because the money we raise goes back to the community.”

GLORIA MEYER
VIRGIL STAMPEDE VOLUNTEER

“I remember before this whole building was built, we used to have tents set up for the food,” she said from the building that houses the food stands.

“And I remember the one Stampede weekend where it was raining and I was in the french fry booth. I remember having to wear boots because there were puddles and I remember thinking, ‘I hate this job,’ ” Meyer recalled, garnering laughter from the volunteers around her.

Despite some bitter weekends as a teenager spent with boiling grease and potatoes, Meyer has continued to volunteer, every year, for four decades because she knows the value the Stampede brings to NOTL.

“It’s great support for the community because the money we raise goes back to the community,” she said.

Meyer said the biggest change in the past 40 years has been the financial investment in all the amenities and the extravagant firework display.

She recalled how money in the early days helped build the Meridian Centennial Arena and was invested in parks and recreation around town.

Lida Kowal Curtis, a member of the Virgil Business Association, was also volunteering.

“It’s very important to raise awareness and needs for the community of Virgil. Especially for people of all disabilities: the elderly, children. We just put in a glider over at Crossroads” for children who use a wheelchair, she said.

“We were so proud to be able to do that.”

Kowal Curtis was referring to the recent installation of an accessible playground at Crossroads Public School.

“We also contributed to build the skate park because we wanted it to be a park for people of all ages. So, it’s a multi-generational park,” she said.

As she doled out hot dogs, volunteer Debbie Dolha said, “I got recruited by my granddaughter and my sons here.”

“I volunteered once before, I think it was about three years ago. I like it, it’s fun to see everybody having such a great time,” she said.



Clockwise from top left: Volunteers Francisco and Maria Del Campo seen here with fellow volunteer and Virgil Business Association member Lida Kowal Curtis. The fireworks display was controlled by NOTL volunteer firefighters. John Vanderlee is all smiles as he watches over the main entrance to the Stampede. Brun Gossen and Sophia Vollmer volunteer at the food stand selling tickets. Coun. Gary Burroughs manning the front gate on Saturday. EVAN SAUNDERS/RICHARD HARLEY

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COMMENT

Humble NHL legend Guy Lafleur's quiet visit to NOTL



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
Columnist
The Lake Report

Guy Lafleur died a few weeks ago and the Montreal Canadiens and their adherents showed class and love as they cheered for him one last time.

They know how to love each other, and "Guy Guy" from small town Quebec was everyone's ami. Lung cancer got him.

From his early days in Thurso, Que., to his years dominating the NHL, he never lost his French Canadian flair, and he was toujours every man's man.

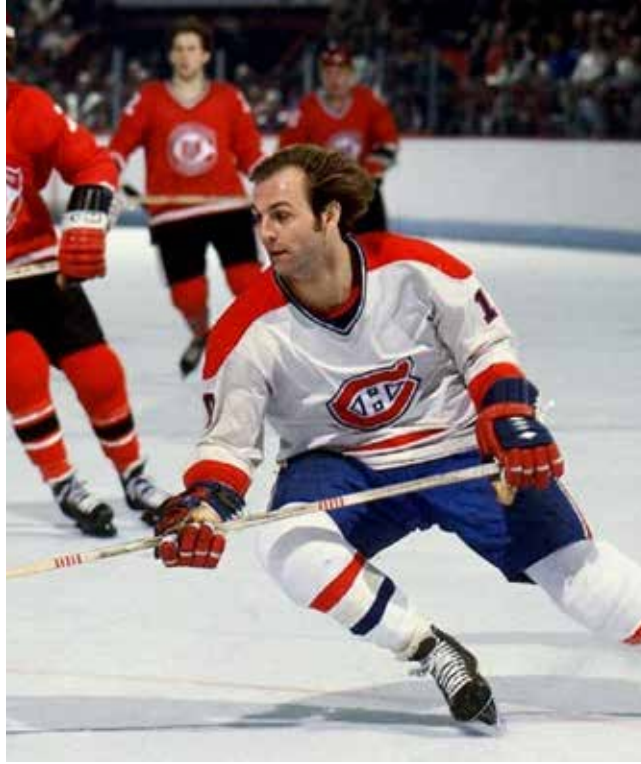
Back on Aug. 15, 2018, I chatted with Guy Guy as the sun came up over Niagara-on-the-Lake. I was down at the sailing club to see my son off on his Kayak for the Cure adventure to Toronto, by which he raised some \$14,000 for cancer research. His 51-kilometre solo paddle took nine hours and one minute. Lon-n-n-guh.

There was a big wooden power boat tied up about 50 metres away and my curiosity drew me to it.

On the deck, in a boring T-shirt and shorts, was Guy Lafleur. Quietly cleaning and polishing some brass fixtures, he looked up and nodded, "Bonjour." He and a few friends had been in NOTL for three days, quietly enjoying our town.

Riding bicycles to several wineries, jet boating twice, a cold beer or two at Oast House, what an area we live in, eh?

Now, my French is pretty good, after four years living, laughing and working



Guy Lafleur. ICE HOCKEY WIKI

in Montreal in the 1970s. Night school and neighbours, lots of hard work, and then a year in Strasbourg, France, et voila, I was functionally bilingue. I learned a long time ago

that if you meet a celebrity, don't talk to them about what made them a celebrity. Maybe chat about a favourite charity, in this case my son's fundraiser for cancer. The weather was

perfect, so we talked about the perfect weather. That's what Canadians do, eh?

Our half-hour together was a true delight, in my erreur-filled French and his thick and rapide quebeois. They were going to be leaving in an hour or three for Toronto. I said, "If you see a solo kayaker with a big support boat in the area, give the horn a toot, and yell, 'Bon chance, Scott.'"

He did, at about the 25-kilometre mark of Scott's solo kayaking marathon. Guy Guy.

Multiple Stanley Cups, MVP award, NHL leading scorer and a true hockey legend, and he took time to wish a young man the best to fight cancer.

Guy Guy. Guy. Number 10. The Flower. Adieu. R.I.P.

Now, it would be piling on to mention the most recent end of yet another inefficient season for Leaf Nation. The target is too ripe and plump. However,

55 years, and still they come up short. Now, the Leafs are on the golf course and their sycophantic scribblers, fawning talking heads on television and masochistic enablers are temporarily silenced. What a relief, eh?

Already, they are waiting for next year. They will talk about how the great Mitch Marner intentionally banked the puck off the goaltender's leg pad to the magnificent Auston Matthews, who won Game 5 with a quicksand-deft redirect. The sad thing is, Leaf fans believe this endless malarkey.

Even ex-pro hockey player, NOTLer Terry Maguire from Kirkland Lake (like me) would never have tried such a dream play.

Hockey is a great game, when played properly and within the rules. But what am I going to do for the next month, now that I can't subtly hope the Leafs lose?

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Motorists and the general public are hereby advised that Niagara Region's Annual Strengthening and Resurfacing Program has commenced. For updates on this project please visit niagararegion.ca/roads. This project is required to increase the lifespan of the road sections by improving the structural integrity.

The proposed work includes:

- Replacing selected cross culverts
- Milling off the top course of asphalt or doing a cold in place strategy of the road section
- Repairing cracks in the base course asphalt and replacing concrete curbs that are in poor condition
- Paving new top course asphalt, line marking and adding granular to shoulders

Please expect traffic delays and that daily road closures and detours as identified will be required for paving operations during construction.

The contractors' anticipated hours of operation from **7 a.m. to 7 p.m.**, weather permitting.

Businesses and residents will have access during the closure but may be directed to take an alternate route to get to their destination.

Emergency services will also have access if required.

Any inquiries concerning this project may be directed to Niagara Region Dispatch at **905-984-3690** or **Melissa Tomascik, C.E.T., Project Manager Transportation Engineering**, at **905-980-6000 ext. 3189**. Your co-operation and patience during this period of inconvenience is appreciated.

Bruce Zvaniga
Commissioner of Public Works (Interim)
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Thunderhawks triumph 12-1 as lacrosse returns to NOTL

Andy Boldt
Special to The Lake Report

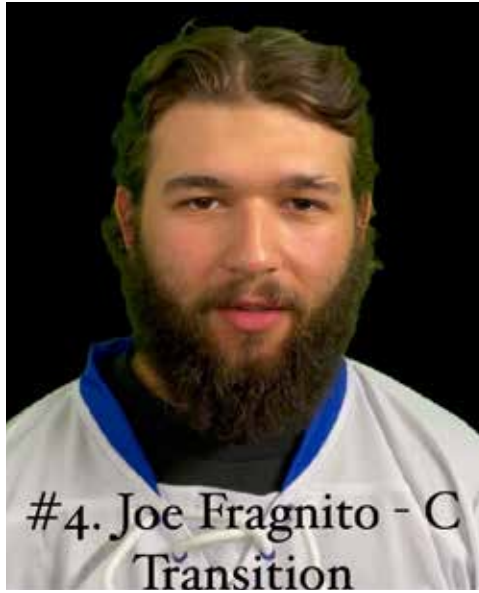
For a while, it looked like there might be no minor lacrosse season in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Most of the age groups in the Niagara Thunderhawks program were unable to recruit enough players to form teams this year, but a spark of hope remains.

Three divisions – paperweight, U9 and U22 – attracted large contingents of players for the 2022 season and hopefully beyond.

The Thunderhawks U22 team (formerly intermediate) opened its season May 17 at the Meridian Credit Union Arena in Virgil with fanfare after two quiet years due to COVID-19 shutdowns.

And the home team responded by beating the Fort Erie Hawks 12-1.



The team started a little tentatively, but quickly turned it around after a shot by Nolan Price three minutes into the game put the Thunderhawks up 1-0. Fort Erie answered three minutes later to make the score 1-1.

Kris Wilson wouldn't be denied, firing a laser

shortly after to open the floodgates and the first period ended 6-1.

The gates remained open, allowing the Thunderhawks to score four goals in the second and two more in the third. Goals went to Price (2), Aedan O'Gorman (2), Liam Dietsch (1), Keaton Boldt (2), Hunter

Ostromecki (2) and Kris Wilson (3).

The offensive success, although impressive, was overshadowed by tenacious defensive play.

Players such as Joe Fragnito, Trent Hunter, Noah Ostromecki, Christian Blaylock and Dietsch dominated the weaker Fort Erie offence

to keep shots on goalies Jack Muraca and Tanyan Davis to a mere handful.

Keeping the game one-sided were Liam Gatt, Aaron Wilson, Jordan Wiens, Ethan Williams, Colby Ostromecki and Jack Marotta.

Although their work was not reflected on the official scoresheet, they were pivotal in getting loose balls, setting up teammates and being the foundation of the team's success. Those characteristics will help make this team successful.

The Thunderhawks are in Hamilton May 26 for a more competitive matchup against the Bengals.

Hamilton has long been known as a tough, gritty team, making the Bengals an excellent test for the skill and resolve of the Thunderhawks.

NOTL has also been

well-known for producing players who not only were successful in minor lacrosse, but Jr. B, Jr. A and the National Lacrosse League.

With the loss of the Jr. B Thunderhawks this season, the U22 team is made up of past and future Jr. B players. The team is, quite frankly, providing the only high level of competitive sport in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The NOTL Minor Lacrosse website, niagaralacrosse.com, includes the schedule for future games. Alumni of NOTL lacrosse might want to keep July 9 open for a double-header versus the Milton Mavericks.

With games at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., alumni can catch up with past teammates, meet new friends and share some history.

Andy Boldt is head coach of the U22 Thunderhawks.



Louise Robitaille tees off. FILE PHOTO

Ruth Dowsett leads 9-hole in women's golf

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Ruth Dowsett was a big winner in the nine-hole women's league Tuesday at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club.

Her 51 was good for a share of second place low gross honours and a net 39 tied her with Barb Werner for low net. Dowsett was also closest to the 150-yard marker on the eighth hole.

Other winners were low gross Diana Dimmer and Suzanne Watson (50), and Maureen Dickson (51), longest putt Lynne Heaman (#5), Dimmer (#3), and Cathy Saytar was closest to

the 150 marker on #1.

The women competed for the Captain's Cup and the winner will be announced next week.

In women's 18-hole league play on Tuesday, seniors champ Louise Robitaille won low gross with an 82, followed by Michele Darling (84) and Yolanda Henry (90).

Low net winner was Sharon Marlow (75), followed by Cheryl Yamamoto, Darling and Henry, all at 76.

Other winners were: fewest putts Darling and Peggy Larder (28), and Chris Walker (30). Closest to the pin #4, Valerie Chubey; Most fairways

hit on the front 9 – May Chang, Susan Gagne and Yamamoto each hit seven fairways; Birdies Robitaille (#2), Sue Sherk (#9). Carroll Baker had a chip-in on #4.

MEN'S RESULTS: Jim McMacken continued his stellar play, shooting an even-par 36 in Tuesday WOOFs league play. Rob Chubey was low net (37).

Jim Meszaros and Harry Huizer had birdies on #7 to win the hidden hole, while Rai Lauge was closest to the pin on #4. Dean McCann won \$63 in the 50/50 draw.

In men's league competition on Thursday, May 19, Mark Derbyshire was tops

in three categories.

He shared low gross with James Grigjanis-Meusel, shooting a one-under 35, had the longest drive on #3 and won a gross skin on #3.

Other winners: Top Stableford score, Bill Smith and Randy Churchill (21 points); closest to the pin, Al Bannister (#4) and Paul Wilson (#9); longest putt #5, Wil Neufeld; longest drive (60+) on #6, Harry Huizer.

Other gross skins winners were: John Reynolds (#2), Ricky Watson (#5) and Brock Sansom (#9). Net skins went to John Reynolds (#2), Terry Catney (#3), Tim Taylor (#6), Churchill (#7) and Arthur Wosinski (#8).


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Cenotaph needs donations for repairs

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Queen Street clocktower cenotaph is ubiquitous when it comes to Niagara-on-the-Lake and the iconic structure is in need of repairs as it reaches its centennial.

"This century-old iconic structure is in need of renovation to ensure it stands for another 100 years," Stan Harrington told councillors during a May 16 committee of the whole meeting.

Harrington is a member and past-president of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124. The Legion is working to raise money for a series of repairs to the cenotaph in tandem with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The clocktower cenotaph is arguably the image most associated with Niagara-on-the-Lake on the international stage.

"As we all know, the Queen Street cenotaph is in the Heritage District in the centre of the Old Town," Harrington said.

"It's been on national TV in Germany — these are the places that I know of — the U.K. and Japan. About 20 years ago a representative from Ottawa came in and told us that, at that time, it was the second-most photographed cenotaph in Ontario."

"It's sacred to not just Niagara-on-the-Lake residents but to all of our country," he said.

But the cenotaph is not important simply because of its aesthetic appeal and association with the town.

It is an emotionally charged and important landmark that ensures the



The iconic Queen Street Cenotaph is in need of repairs and Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 are asking the community to donate to support NOTL's most recognizable structure. FILE

memories of Niagarans who gave their lives in service of the nation are not forgotten, Harrington said.

It has long been featured as the centerpiece of commemorative events such as Remembrance Day and 9/11.

"It symbolizes what we have done and what our ancestors have done for the country," Harrington said.

He recounted the stories of individuals who have been moved to donate to the cenotaph over the years.

"Seven years ago, two ladies whose mother had passed away gave me the loose coins they had found in her home. They asked me to donate this money to a Legion-supported cause," he said.

"After all these years we have now given the money to the cenotaph renovation campaign."

Harrington said the majority of the renovations are for the inside of the cenotaph, which has suffered water damage.

There is no fundraising target yet as the cost and breadth of the renovations have not been determined.

Harrington said individu-

als from the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts in Queenston are putting together a report on damage and costs.

Legion president Allan Howse sought to remind councillors of the important part Niagara-on-the-Lake has played in the military history of Canada.

"First settled in 1778 by the British forces moving to the west bank of the Niagara, permanent navy and army settlements were built, including Fort George," Howse said.

"There were major battles fought on this ground in the War of 1812. There has been training conducted here up until 1966, including large concentrations of troops during both world wars," he said.

"This town cenotaph is a reminder of the community service to this nation."

Howse also shed some light on the cenotaph's origins.

"The structure was selected by a vote of all town citizens. Of 632 votes, 316 were in favour of the clocktower, 237 voted for a memorial hospital and 74 voted for a monument," he

said.

"A community clocktower in the 1920s and '30s was a very practical choice, ringing out the time for the many community members who didn't have watches."

The cenotaph was unveiled on June 3, 1922, Howse said.

"On Saturday, June 4, 2022, the lord mayor and the town, with the town cenotaph community and Branch 124 Legion, will honour the Lt.-Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell as we celebrate 100 years of honouring those from the community who made the ultimate sacrifice."

There will be a parade out front of the cenotaph at 11 a.m. on June 4.

Coun. Gary Burroughs said the town has been working closely with the Legion to help get the work done.

Burroughs said the bells, which have been ringing for a century, are also getting assessed for repairs.

"The other thing I would like to mention is, while we are always looking for larger donations, any donation would be greatly received (and a) benefit to the project," Burroughs said.

He also called on town staff to set up an outreach program to collect donations from visitors.

Cash donations can be made directly to Branch 124 but cheques should be delivered to the town, a representative from Branch 124 told The Lake Report.

That is because the town can distribute tax receipts for any donation over \$25 while the Legion cannot.

Donations can also be made online at notl.com/recreation-events/community-initiatives-events.



I am four times as old as my daughter. In 20 years' time, I shall be twice as old as her. How old are we now?

Last issue: George, Helen, and Steve are drinking coffee. Bert, Karen, and Dave are drinking soda. Using logic, is Elizabeth drinking coffee or soda?

Answer: Coffee (there are two "e"s in the names of the coffee drinkers).

Answered first by: Mary Drost

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Margaret Louter, Terry Nord, Maria Janeiro, Jane Morris, Britiney Turasz, Wade Durling, Rob Hutchison, Pam Dowling, Johanne Pelletier, Bert Dandy, Sadie Willms, Jacob Willms, Sheila Meloche, Margie Enns, Brandy Delaney, Steve Siansky

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Yoka Fashions opens **new NOTL location** in Virgil

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The Lake Report

Yoka Fashions is thrilled to be open at its new location at 1627 Niagara Stone Rd. in Virgil.

While somewhat new to NOTL, Yoka has actually been in business as a high-end fashion retailer since 2001.

Owner Carla Kloosterhuis, a NOTL local since 2012, first opened Yoka (her mom's name) as a cart in Oakville Place mall when she was 22.

With a strong fashion retail background learned from a family store in the Netherlands, Carla sought to bring that same look and feel to Canada and find a way to work for herself.

What started as a mall kiosk selling one size fits all imported fashion, soon became an institution for Euro fashion on Queen Street East in the Beaches area of Toronto, Carla's 'hood.

Yoka became famous for its unique brands and the warm, welcoming vibe in the Beaches shop, keeping people from all over the GTA coming back for more.

But Carla always knew that just being a re-



Carla Kloosterhuis models some of her Yoka fashion items. SUPPLIED

tailer wasn't enough and was strived to do and be more. At the mall, she rented out the food court and put on catered fashion shows and events.

At the Queen Street store, she had DJs spinning in the windows on Sunday afternoons and was always hosting private shopping parties.

Yoka's collection always consisted of easy-to-wear fashion ... with an edge.

Her collections grew into more than just Dutch fashions, adding plenty of Canadian-made designs and

footwear from Spain and Italy.

In 2012, Carla decided to pursue another dream and moved to beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake, shortly after starting a family of her own.

She maintained her Queen Street store and found a way to live both an urban and country lifestyle. It wasn't easy, but nothing good ever is.

When the pandemic started in 2020, Yoka faced the challenge many small businesses did – the first dreaded lockdown.

All at once, 18 years of

being dependent on foot traffic came to a halt and Carla knew it was time to build the one thing Yoka was missing: an e-commerce store.

She wasted no time and brought her first U-Haul of inventory home from the Beaches to NOTL in March 2020, to rebuild the business from her basement.

It didn't take long before Yoka's website was up and running. She modelled all the fashions herself, with longtime friend and legendary photographer Michelle

Quance, choosing locations all over Niagara region as backdrops.

Carla decided not to return to Queen Street retail and make this new chapter of her life and business work, putting her young children's needs first.

That summer, Carla did over 1,000 in-person deliveries and over 20 pop-ups in her old beloved Beach neighbourhood.

In April 2020, she tried her first Instagram Live show, which to her surprise became a huge hit.

Having a strong 18-year relationship with her followers, she was able to determine what styles and sizes her customers would need, modelling it all on Instagram herself.

"Friday Night Live" sent her business from surviving to thriving and now reaches customers nationwide with a steady following tuning in every week.

With a modelling background, Carla was a natural at presenting her hand-picked fashions and was not afraid of what might happen on a live show, often in front of as many as 200 viewers.

The live shows became a way for friends and longtime Yoka customers to

connect, often laughing and commenting to one another through the feed and having a lot of fun.

It became a survival mechanism for many to get through the lockdown loneliness, which gave Carla a new purpose for her fashion empire.

In August 2020, Yoka moved into her small space on Mary Street, barely opening for retail as capacity limits were hindering and the Friday Live action turned the space into a studio, and pack-and-ship zone.

Now a month in at her newest location, Carla and staff are thrilled to welcome shoppers into a beautiful shopping space filled with all of Yoka's favourite brands.

Yoka also has its own private label and continues to import from her homeland the Netherlands brands that are exclusive to Yoka.

Store hours are Wednesday to Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 11-5, with a Friday Instagram Live show almost every week.

Check out the website at www.yokafashions.com or follow her on Instagram @yokafashions to stay up-to-date and tune into Friday Live shopping.



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Doug Ford drives a steamroller at McNab Acres before an announcement about the Garden City Skyway. EVAN SAUNDERS

Doug Ford campaign steamrolls into NOTL

Progressive Conservative leader talks up Skyway twinning and makes pitch for Tories

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Doug Ford re-election campaign steamrolled into Niagara-on-the-Lake last week — literally.

Ford made a campaign stop Thursday morning at landscape supplier McNab Acres on Niagara Stone Road, where he drove a modern pavement roller over a patch of asphalt.

He then spoke about the twinning of the Garden City Skyway and pitched the Progressive Conservatives as the best choice in the impending provincial election.

“We’re tackling the hardest problems and delivering real solutions. That means rebuilding Ontario’s economy with better jobs and bigger paycheques so our kids and grandkids can build their future here in Ontario,” Ford said from the bed of a tractor trailer.

Ford touted the investment into the twinning of the Garden City Skyway as a uniquely Progressive Conservative project and spared no time in making the focus around the provincial election.

“The Liberals had their chance to invest in a new Skyway bridge but, no

surprise, they didn’t get it done,” he said.

“(Liberal leader) Steven Del Duca had his chance. He was Kathleen Wynne’s minister of transportation.”

The Garden City Skyway was originally targeted for expansion in a 2014 report by MMM Inc., a study that started in 2011 under Dalton McGuinty’s Liberals.

The study found the Skyway would need to be replaced by 2025.

Ford said the twinning of the bridge would be a boon for everyone in Niagara Region, as traffic would have a better flow during peak hours.

And he had no kind words for his rivals for the premiership.

While the Liberals failed to deal with the Skyway they did find time to “increase gas prices, impose new road tolls and jack up the cost to renewing your licence plate,” he said.

Ford said the New Democratic Party is the party of “no.”

“No to progress. No to building.”

A journalist from The Lake Report asked Ford how his party would relieve the suffering of Ontarians at the gas pump after he claimed the op-

position parties would increase gas prices even more if they won.

“I just wish I could partner with the federal government and knock off 11 cents, even if it’s temporary. The carbon tax, we’ve got to give people a break,” he said.

Ford claimed the PC party has already knocked 10 cents off of gas prices.

“But we’re going to continue to focus on delivering items right across the board that will save people money,” he said.

“We can’t do it alone. We really need the support of the federal government.”

A reporter asked Ford what it would take for him to drop a candidate who is anti-abortion. Ford’s answer seemed to suggest abortion rights are not a significant issue for Ontario voters.

“I know our opponents. They want to keep talking about everything else but what matters to the people of Ontario,” he said.

“It’s very clear they are trying to dodge every which way possible because they never got the job done.”

“They jacked up all the taxes and they’re trying to avoid the real things that matter to the people of Ontario.”

Regarding COVID-19, Ford said his team is following all the protocols of chief medical officer of health for the province, Dr. Kieran Moore.

“Our plan is to keep the province open, the economy open,” he said.

Throughout the election campaign many Tory candidates have declined to take part in debates, including Niagara Falls riding candidate Bob Gale’s refusal to take part in a debate last week hosted by YourTV.

“What I think is important is they’re out there door-knocking, speaking to thousands and thousands — matter of fact, we’re door-knocking tens of thousands of doors every single day,” Ford said.

He emphasized his party’s platform is about building.

“We’re going to start building, continue to build bridges, roads and highways,” he said.

“We’re building hospitals and schools.”

Regarding the expropriation of land for the twinning the Skyway, Ford said the province is working through Infrastructure Ontario and all due diligence will be done.

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Rising from the ashes of debilitating mental trauma

As 'Kaye Parker' on social media, NOTL woman finds a way to heal while trying to help others

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

One Niagara-on-the-Lake woman learned to grow through her trauma, including a late-term miscarriage and a marital split – and now she speaks openly about the darkest moments in her life and her journey through it all.

Sarah Kroeker's road from rock bottom to success as a social media personality was tumultuous, but she says acknowledging and addressing her trauma was a vital part of the healing process.

"I had so much internal work to do," she says, noting her mental health struggles. "But I was always so distracted with work or being a mom, and I never really did the inner work."

Kroeker, a 31-year-old mother of three, is better known by her public persona Kaye Parker.

The online moniker stems from her career as an educational assistant, where she was Ms. Kroeker, Ms. K for short and that grew into Kaye. Parker is her birth grandmother's maiden name.

Though she was adopted into a wonderful, loving family, she says she always craved a sense of belonging and being needed.

"I was very much a people pleaser because of that. I spent my whole life trying



Sarah Kroeker a.k.a. "Kaye Parker" is on a mission of healing after a miscarriage sent her down a spiral of depression. BRITTANY CARTER

to make everybody happy and doing what everybody wanted. Even if I didn't want it. I didn't want to let anybody down. I didn't want anybody not to like me."

When she began the healing process, she was unable to climb out of her own darkness until she confronted past pain and worked on her "shadow self."

She participated in emotional regulation and tolerance courses, and although

she says the classes themselves were not a good fit, they provided the tools she needed to begin to heal.

"Healing is an ongoing process," she says.

The initial darkness and her spiral into depression consumed her after the miscarriage of her fourth child in January 2019.

"I was in a state of shock. I was in a state of extreme emotion."

She says she was in a haze from December 2018, when

she learned her unborn child was no longer viable, until she finally gave birth to her son, Jack on Jan. 6, 2019.

"I don't remember a single thing."

She still struggles to recall details from the weeks surrounding the death of her son. She remembers feeling lost, confused and uninformed about the miscarriage and the next steps to take.

"There's so much that goes on and women are literally, I don't want to say clueless, but we're not given the appropriate information and we don't know what to expect," Kroeker says.

"Nobody talks about it (miscarriage). It's awful, because there are so many women in isolation and they navigate this on their own. That's what causes these mental health issues."

Kroeker wants to break the stigma surrounding miscarriage, an issue the Public Health Agency of Canada says occurs in 15 per cent to 25 per cent of pregnancies.

She was featured in an intensive article in Authority Magazine where she speaks in depth about her ups and downs, the work she has done to overcome her toughest obstacles – and everything in between.

Now she deals with her trauma on her show "Trials and Tribulations," which she has been host-

ing weekly on Instagram Live at Instagram.com/KayeParkerOfficial for more than a year. She invites a variety of guests, from celebrities to ordinary people, to share their own stories of rising through adversity.

"I made really poor choices when I was grieving. I couldn't recognize myself. I didn't recognize my actions. And I was lost," she says. She wants viewers to know you can always come back from the trauma.

"I feel like when people make mistakes, they define and label themselves as that mistake, and they get consumed by it. They're stuck in this ruminating cycle of, 'I am this person, I am this way.' And then they stay there, stagnant, and it's dark," Kroeker says.

"You're always allowed to write the narrative of your own story."

When she reached her own rock bottom, she decided to rewrite her own story, saying she had nowhere to go but up. With nothing left to lose she says she was no longer held hostage by the fear of failure.

That's when Kroeker turned to the popular video platform TikTok to share the lighter side of life. But she says she never expected the account to reach almost 160,000 followers and more than 1.3 million likes.

"I was just being an idiot. I was literally just having

fun. I was at home with the kids and it was an app that you got to mimic voices and just make videos and be silly," she says.

"I had no idea my life would be where it is today."

By that, she means leaving her 9-to-5 job as an early childhood educator to focus on building the Kaye Parker brand. She hopes to be able to make a living from her social persona through sponsorships and collaborations.

"(Manager) C.J. Allen found me on TikTok. He was like, 'You have something. I don't know what it is, I don't know how, but I want you,'" she says.

Allen, who specializes in music management, signed on as her manager and helped create the Kaye Parker persona, she says.

With a background in music and theatre, she initially planned to pursue a music career.

However as her show gained more attention, her content has focused on mental health, cannabis and psychedelics, and working through the difficult times.

She says she "couldn't be happier" with the direction her show has taken and the possibility of making a difference in the lives of her followers.

"It brings me the greatest happiness and joy. I am absolutely so happy that I started it," she says.

Newark Neighbours needs help finding new home

Staff
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Newark Neighbours has outgrown its location on John Street and is seeking help from people in the community who might have ideas for where the agency can move.

The food bank and thrift shop has put together a requirement wish list that outlines its needs, including at least 2,000 square feet of space.

A central location is ideal, with ground-floor accessibility that affords privacy



Newark Neighbours is looking for a new home so it can expand its food bank shelf space. FILE

for food bank clients, Newark Neighbours chair Cindy Grant said in an email to The Lake Report.

The organization is the only food bank supporting Niagara-on-the-Lake and gives out about 50 baskets

of food every month. Clients are allowed to visit twice a month.

Grant says there is a growing demand and unmet need for food and hopes the new location, with more space, will help Newark Neighbours keep up with the demand.

The thrift store offers a wide variety of gently used items and 100 per cent of sale proceeds go to the food bank.

Anyone who can help should contact Grant at newarkneighbours1@gmail.com or by phone at 905-468-3519.

Yellow Door Theatre Project to host Bavarian fundraiser May 30

Staff
The Lake Report

Get ready for beer, pretzels and live music, as the Yellow Door Theatre Project gears up for its first annual "GartenParty" fundraiser on Monday, May 30.

The evening will be a Bavarian-themed celebration with entertainment provided by Kyle Golemba and Kyle Blair, who will be joined by Alexandre Brillon, Sydney Cornett and members of the recent cast of Yellow Door's

production of "Godspell."

The show is suitable for ages 14 and up, and the material is mature in content. Parental discretion is advised, the company noted in a news release.

The event will take place at 117 Victoria St., Niagara-on-the-Lake. Reception is at 6 p.m. and entertainment begins at 7 p.m.

A limited number of tickets are available for \$110 at www.eventbrite.com/e/gartenparty-tickets-322211452127.

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Curiosity kills: Protecting pet cats and small animals



Keeping it Green

Kyra Simone
Special to The Lake Report

Coyote encounters this spring have sparked concern for small children and dogs in Niagara-on-the-Lake, but the impact on pet cats hasn't yet been part of the conversation.

Cats that are allowed to roam outside have shorter lifespans and are targeted by large predators, while also harming the local environment.

OUT OF THE BAG

Compared to housecats, which live longer than 10 years, outdoor cats often only live two to five years. They can't outrun birds of prey, or coyotes, which can reach speeds of up to 60

kilometres per hour.

Outdoor cats may be hit by road vehicles and must contend with environmental extremes like heat waves or freezing temperatures. If accidentally trapped, like in a dumpster, they may even be at risk of starving or dehydration.

Cats that roam are likely to contract parasites like ticks and worms, or infectious diseases including toxoplasmosis, which can be transmitted to humans. They may even become sick from eating poisoned rodents or drinking from puddles in the road containing "tasty" toxins like antifreeze.

Not only is it dangerous to let cats outside, it's also against Section 83 of the town's animal care and control bylaw.

Town spokesperson Marah Minor explains: "Free-roaming domesticated pets (including cats and dogs) are not permitted to roam beyond their owner's private property lines."

WHAT THE CAT DRAGGED IN

"Our pets are really important to us, but they're



This lone female redwing blackbird is a potential target for an outdoor cat. GREGARY FORD PHOTO

also a huge blindspot for recognizing our own environmental footprints," says Brendon Samuels, coordinator of Bird Friendly London.

"Cats were introduced to North America by humans only within the last couple hundred years. Wildlife native to North America like birds, frogs and small mammals, don't stand a chance against domestic cats," says Samuels, who is also a biology PhD candidate at Western University.

Now, domestic cats are

considered one of the top 100 worst invasive species in the world and have caused the extinctions of at least 36 species.

They prey indiscriminately on small animals: scientific studies show that cats kill almost 2 million reptiles each day in Australia and are likely the leading cause of amphibian population declines in the United States.

Outdoor cats kill between 100 and 350 million wild birds in Canada each year, which makes them a leading

cause of bird deaths: much more than roads, buildings or energy infrastructure.

Bird populations are already declining sharply due to compounding pressures like climate change, and reduced habitat and food supply.

"Pet owners are usually only aware of a small fraction of the total number of animals that their cat injures or kills while outside," says Samuels.

Cats don't kill or eat all the animals they attack, so it's impossible to know its destructive footprint based on the "gifts" it brings home. Some estimates suggest every outdoor cat kills two animals per week.

THE CAT'S MEOW

Luckily, there are many ways to keep pet cats safe from predators and protect small animals from cats.

Cats can easily be trained to walk on a harness and leash, or can enjoy safe outdoor time in an enclosure like a "catio" or screened-in porch. Inside, many cats enjoy observing wildlife through windows, especially on enriching cat gyms or perches.

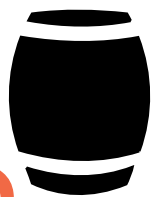
Barn cats are still part of the problem if they're allowed outside of buildings. Instead, rodents can be managed by storing animal feed more securely, installing boxes to encourage birds of prey to roost nearby, or using rat terriers.

While transitioning your outdoor cat to an indoor one, visual and audio alerts like bright collars or bells can help prey escape. A product called CatBib even reduces the ability of cats to pounce on small animals.

Keeping cats inside helps them to live longer, safer lives and protects vulnerable wildlife. After all, if we are so concerned about coyotes following natural instincts to feed their young, we must also worry about the negative impacts of our pet cats on fragile local ecosystems.

Kyra Simone is a green-at-heart NOTL resident with master's degrees in biology & science communication. In her spare time, she advocates for sustainable change, picks up litter, makes recycled jewelry, and transforms furniture bound for the landfill.

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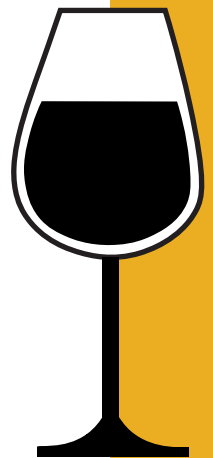
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Queenston Art Show returns after four years

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Queenston Community Centre and Library got a vitality boost on the long weekend as the much-loved Queenston Art Show returned after a four-year hiatus.

"I come every year, but it hasn't happened since 2018," Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Susan Brown said at the show on Sunday.

"It's wonderful. It's just a part of the community and we couldn't do anything for those years when it was off," she said.

"I missed it."

Brown said she always purchases art to support the artists.

"My house is full," she said.

"I used to bring my husband and then it got to a point where he couldn't come in any more so he used to sit and wait for me in the car while I came in and browsed," Brown recalled with a laugh.

The library has a long history of hosting Queenston's social events, NOTL resident Marlene McCarthy recalled.



Susan Brown and Marlene McCarthy browse some of the paintings on display at the Queenston Art Show over the long-weekend. EVAN SAUNDERS

"You know, back in the 1970s we had a chili bake-off here. It was a contest about who had the best chili recipe," she said.

"The best one was the one with chocolate in it."

McCarthy said these events provided a space for residents to meet and learn from each other.

She was born in Niagara Falls but raised in NOTL and has lived here virtually ever since. She went to Niagara District High School.

Brown said she hopes the art show marks a return of events at the library.

"I wish I had an excuse to come here more often," she said.

Brown and McCarthy are longtime admirers of St. Catharines artist Anne Reimer, whose work has been displayed at the Queenston show for many years.

Reimer sold a painting at the show on Friday and said she was glad to be back.

"I've been painting for about 40 years," the 83-year-old said.

"I get inspired every day by my garden and the places that I travel and the surrounding area."

Reimer had two paintings on display at the show on Saturday. One was of a peony and another was of a home in Queenston.

"I just love the peony. They are so tender and delicate and I love it when they bloom," she said.

"They have a very short blooming period and fade easily. So, if I paint them they last for a long time."

All of the paintings on sale at the library were original works. Reimer said it can be difficult to part with an original piece.

"They are a part of me. It's sentimental to me but I'm also glad when somebody else likes them," said Reimer, who also teaches at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre.

All of her paintings were done with a palette knife using oil paint. She said it allows her to make remarkable textures in her paintings.

Viewed from the side, Reimer's works literally leap off the canvas.

Art show chair Yimlei Molly Yep said she doesn't yet know whether the show will happen again next year.

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Don't wait: Now is the time to start **summer container planting**



Joanne Young
Gardening Columnist



Container gardening is something you can do even if you don't have a lot of green space. JOANNE YOUNG

Well, our milder nighttime temperatures mean it should be safe to put our annual containers out.

Container gardening is something that everyone can participate in. Whether you live in a house or an apartment with a balcony, growing flowers, tropical plants and vegetables can spruce up any living space.

Here are a few things to consider before getting started.

The first thing to think about is selecting the right pot. Determine your style or the effect that you want to create (e.g. modern, rustic, Zen etc.). Choosing

a container with the proper shape, material and colour can help convey your style.

You also must consider how much space you have at pots should be proportional to your space. The larger the space, the larger the containers should be, or you might want to group a number of pots together to create the same effect.

All pots must have proper drainage, so make sure you have suitable saucers if necessary. If pots are going to be sit-

ting directly on a hard surface, they should be raised one or two inches for proper drainage.

The next consideration is selecting the right plants for your pots. First, you need to know how much sun the area is receiving and at what time of day. If a plant requires full sun, it will need a minimum of six hours or more of sun during the day.

Part shade means four to five hours of sun daily and shade is anything less than

four hours. If the plant is not in the right light conditions it will not perform at its peak no matter how much you fertilize it.

Your choice of plants will also help convey your desired style whether it be tropical, English cottage or contemporary etc.

Maybe you have a pool and want to have lush-looking planters to add ambience. Using tropical plants or annuals with larger leaves will help to create that look.

For a more contemporary look, you want to use a pot with simple lines and have a main architectural plant for your focal point with just a couple different trailing plants. To achieve a more rustic effect, use more varieties of flowering plants, including some daisy-shaped flowers.

The colour of the flowers you choose will also help create the mood you want to convey. Pastel colours, also known as cool colours, consist of whites, pinks, purples and blues.

These colours are relaxing and tranquil and will recede in the garden, so they are best appreciated up close.

Using cool colours in a smaller space will help make the area seem larger. Warm colours (reds, oranges, yellows and burgundys) are vibrant and add excitement to an area.

When put into the garden, these colours come at you and can make an area seem smaller. If you are placing a pot in a far corner, the warm colours will make more of an impact than the cool colours.

Remember to consider the textures of flowers and leaves when choosing your plants. Small feathery leaves and dainty flowers give a delicate, subtle look and are appreciated more when seen up close.

Bold flowers and large leaves can be appreciated from a distance. To achieve a balanced look, make sure that there is a good mixture of bold and delicate flowers, and foliage. Make sure that you always have different coloured leaves in the container.

Here are a few last helpful hints:

Proper watering is key. Plants in containers will dry out quicker than they would in the ground and

therefore need to be watered more frequently.

Watering frequency depends on the size and type of pot, the type of soil used, the type of plants used and the location of the container. A small container in a hot, windy location will dry out quicker than a large pot in a cool shady area.

Since you are watering containers more often, they also need to be fertilized more often (fertilizer is leaching through the pots quicker). A good, slow-releasing fertilizer is one with osmocote. A heavy blooming plant requires more fertilizer.

Removing spent blooms will increase the number of new blooms.

Remove unsightly, diseased or insect-infested foliage as soon as it appears to stop the spread of insects or diseases.

As you are starting to get your container ready for the summer, try something new – like a new combination of plants. Try a different colour. Try a different look.

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

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Bikes for Farmworkers in 'dire' need of more bicycles

Staff
The Lake Report

If you have an adult-size bicycle that you are no longer using, the Bikes For Farmworkers project will happily take it off your hands.

The organization, which repairs and supplies bikes to Niagara's migrant workers for a nominal fee, is holding a bicycle dropoff this Saturday, May 28, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bring your old bikes to the group's shop in the former Virgil Public School, 1665 Four Mile Creek Rd. at Field Road in Virgil.

"We are now in dire need

of more bikes to meet the demand from the farmworkers," said Bikes For Farmworkers volunteer Ken Eden.

"Last year we supplied 298 refurbished bicycles and to date in 2022 we have already sold 248, which has emptied our inventory of saleable bikes," he said in a news release.

The group has been operating since 2016 and has now put 2,185 refurbished bicycles in the hands of migrant workers and done free repairs on 1,367 others, Eden said.

Volunteers from Bikes For Farmworkers, an outreach



Bikes for Farmworkers is asking the community to donate a bike if they can for a seasonal farm worker. FILE PHOTO

ministry of Gateway Community Church, take donated, repairable adult bicycles and refurbish them for sale to the farmworkers.

For the majority of them, a bike is their sole means of private transportation for the up to eight months they are here, he said.

Hurry! Old Town community garden has three open spots

Staff
The Lake Report

The community garden in Old Town is all ready for a June 1 start date and organizer Julian Trachsel says there are three plots available.

"Due to changes in circumstances, a couple of people who had committed earlier are no longer partici-

pating this year," Trachsel said in a message to The Lake Report.

"As a result I do have three 10-foot by 10-foot plots available for planting this year."

Anyone who would like to claim one of the spots better act fast as they were previously all sold out.

If you're interested, contact Trachsel at newarkpark-

communitygarden@gmail.com.

The garden's 32 plots have already been laid out, a water line installed, the turf scraped and fresh soil brought in, he said.

"The plots still need a bit of work but we are close. The town has done a fabulous job bringing this project along in two months since approval," said Trachsel.



Julian Trachsel pictured at the Newark Park community garden. FILE



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Have some fun



- Across**
1. Farm honkers (5)
 4. Declares formally (9)
 10. High-pitched flute (4)
 11. Happening together (10)
 12. Safe stores (6)
 13. Casual tops (1-6)
 14. W W II turning point (1-3)
 16. Lowest-value chessmen (5)
 19. Deciduous timber trees (4)
 20. Cloth colourist (4)
 22. Portable music players (5)
 24. Deep voice (4)
 25. May contain peas or beans, for example (4,3)
 26. Shows broadcast again (6)
 29. Mental analysis (10)
 30. Woodwind instrument (4)
 31. Graceless (9)
 32. Up (5)
- Down**
2. My Fair Lady --- Doolittle (5)
 3. Author of "Ozymandias" (7)
 5. Told (4)
 6. Consecutive parts of a meal (7)
 7. International carrier (7)
 8. Frequently (4,5)
 9. Misbehaves (4,2)
 15. Rainless months (3,6)
 17. Egyptian cobra (3)
 18. Indicate agreement (3)
 21. Profoundly different (7)
 22. Household chore (7)
 23. Wanders away (6)
 24. Obtains temporarily (7)
 27. Model --- Campbell (5)
 28. Stupefy (4)

Crossword Puzzle

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Last issue's answers

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The brain is a learning machine of unrivalled excellence



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

In last week's column I suggested humans were most capable of learning novel cognitive and motor skills, and were most creative, between the teenage years and late thirties.

To support my hypothesis, I cited the highly imaginative and creative work of a small pool of theoretical physicists, who in the first three decades of the 20th century, created the brand-new field of quantum physics. With few exceptions, most of those physicists were in their 20s or 30s at the time of their best work.

Another example I drew on was that of learning and performing complex motor skills at the highest level in sports such as gymnastics,

in which most athletes are at their best in their teens or early twenties.

To many readers, quantum physics and gymnastics may seem totally unrelated, but in the manner in which both involve visualization, learning and integrating complex neural systems in the brain, they are very similar.

In a study published in the journal *Nature* on April 14, data from over 100,000 MRIs were assessed for grey matter volume, cortical thickness, white matter volume and ventricular volume, beginning in utero through to late life.

Cortical thickness increased rapidly in the fetal brain, continued into early childhood, peaked in the late first decade and declined thereafter slowly into late life.

The profile for grey matter volume, which adds grey matter in the base of the brain, was similar but peaked a little later after which, like neocortical thickness, it too began a long decline into later life. Matter volume, on the other hand, peaked much later – between the ages of 20



and 40 – after which, it also declined.

Grey matter, whether the deep nuclei or neocortex, contains all the nerve cells in the brain as well as nerve fibres, which originate with those neurons or connect with them from elsewhere.

White matter contains fibre systems outside the grey matter, but no nerve cells. Finally, the volume of the fluid-filled ventricular system begins to rise as early as the 20s and faster after 40, and reflects age-related losses of both grey and white matter.

Obviously, there's more to the story of the functional capacities of the brain than the simple metrics cited in this MRI study. Even so, most of what becomes the mature human brain happens in the first three and, especially, first decade of life and begins in utero.

The whole process of cel-

lular differentiation leading to the development of the mature brain, is a highly choreographed, exquisitely orchestrated, and finely timed spatial and temporal process.

It involves selective activation of some genes, silencing other genes and molecular signalling cues, which direct the specialization of nerve cells including how many are created, where they migrate and which connections they make with other brain cells.

In this process, competition develops between nerve cells to make the most effective connections. The result is the most successful nerve cells survive, and the less successful ones disappear without a trace, in a process called "programmed cell death," for which studies a Nobel Prize was awarded to Sydney Brenner, Robert Horvitz and John Sulston in 2002.

Some scientists debate the relative roles of nature, and nurture – that is, the importance of genes compared to environmental influences – on the brain's development. However, they miss the point.

Evolution endowed the brain with an enormous capacity to adapt to its environment, whether language, culture, educational opportunities (or lack of), and acquire new skills.

The brain is a learning machine par excellence. That's why it adapts so well to environmental challenges such as learning first and even second and third languages with such apparent ease early in life and picking up computer skills so quickly in childhood and the teenage years – skills that so often elude their parents and certainly grandparents.

There is the telling example of how Stone Age people living in isolated communities in New Guinea in the early 20th century, quickly adapted to western cultures, languages, and vocations within a few decades. Here was yet one more example of an omniscient brain – more than capable of taking on new challenges unimaginable by their ancestors.

Tragically, brains without opportunities to learn skills such as

language early in life, may fail to do so later. To reach its full potential, the brain needs good health plus continued and varied nurturing especially early in life. That's why malnutrition, disease and lack of stimulation can be so devastating for the brain's development.

There is a final point worth making. Brains work in concert with other brains. We learn from one another, our parents, family, extended community, and these days for good or ill, through the internet.

We also have a responsibility to use our brains wisely and productively for the good of others, including other species and the planet. While we might not be quite as sharp as our grandchildren with the novel and new, our older brains have more experience.

What we chose to do with that experience is what counts.

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

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Battle of Fort George, May 27, 1813

This watercolour depicts the War of 1812's Battle of Fort George on May 27, 1813. It is a view toward the mouth of the Niagara River from Lake Ontario, with Fort Niagara to the left and the town of Niagara (today Niagara-on-the-Lake) on the right. After the capture of York, the capital of Upper Canada, in April 1813, many anticipated the next American assault to be on Fort George. By mid-May, there were reports of several ships gathering east of Fort Niagara. At daybreak on May 27, some 5,000 U.S. troops boarded 150 navy vessels and under the cover of fog, sailed toward the mouth of the Niagara River and the adjacent lake shore. As the fog lifted, the U.S. opened fire with over 70 cannons. Having been taken by surprise, there was scarcely any return fire from the British. The invading U.S. troops forced their way through town and attacked Fort George. The British retreated to St. Davids, then on to Burlington Heights but were not pursued by the Americans. Left undefended, Fort George and the town of Niagara were occupied by American troops until December 1813.

Correction: There was some confusion over last week's Exploring Photos image of the village of Queenston. The circa 1903 photograph of Queenston looks south down Queenston Street. The South Landing Inn, on Front Street, is just left of centre in the far distance (not the buildings in the immediate distance). The large building to the far left is the former Noye Estate house, which burned down and was replaced by the home known as Greystone. Willowbank would be to the right, out of view.



ARCHITEXT

Not what it looked like

Brian Marshall
Columnist

In the past few days, I had occasion to take a fairly long walk along the streets of Old Town.

As is my wont, this stroll provided the opportunity to do some "house-watching" at a more leisurely pace than afforded by driving.

After a kilometre or so, punctuated by a few stops to take a closer look at this or that house, the prevalence of a certain type of exterior finish on many of the 19th-century houses began to register, particularly since this finish would not have been original and had substantially altered the presentation of the buildings to which it was applied.

I am talking here about stucco (or "render" if you happen to be British).

Now, stucco has been in use since before the days of ancient Greece. Historically, it was a lime-based mixture most often containing sand and water, although other aggregates and additives were occasionally mixed in.

Despite its long history, in Britain the use of stucco remained largely an oddity prior to the 19th-century rise of the architect John Nash. A champion of the Regency school, Nash catapulted stucco's popularity in England and Wales during the first half of the 1800s.

In North America, the situation was largely similar, but delayed. In fact, broader acceptance of stucco was not achieved here until after the 1850 publishing of "The Architecture of Country Houses" by Andrew Jackson Downing. In this influential book, Downing touted stucco as cheaper, warmer and drier than plain stone or brick.

Despite enjoying a good measure of popularity, stucco remained well behind clapboard, brick and stone as a cladding choice. That is, until Portland

cement took the place of lime in the stucco mixture around the turn of the 20th century and architectural styles such as Arts & Crafts, Art Deco, International and the Eclectics burst onto the scene.

Suddenly, everybody wanted this new "modern" finish on their home. A finish that not only refreshed their old home (in several colours no less), but promised to be largely maintenance-free. If anything in the building industry to that date could have been called a "craze," stucco certainly was.

Let's circle back to Niagara-on-the-Lake during the rebuilding after the War of 1812. Timber was plentiful and sawmills were running at full production.

At a somewhat higher cost, brick was locally made, as was the lime used in mortar. While both sandstone and limestone could be had, the former was significantly more expensive than brick and production of the latter was difficult enough to reserve it for use as lintels, water tables and decorative elements (such as keystones).

The use of rubblestone construction was gener-

ally limited to foundations and basements.

So, the streets of town, certainly during the first half of the 19th century, would have displayed a predominance of wood clad homes (mostly clapboard) interspersed with the brick houses of the somewhat more affluent. Stucco was nowhere to be found.

Why then today are there so many heritage houses clad in stucco?

The answer lies in that "craze" mentioned earlier.

Picture a homeowner of that period looking at their house. The 100-year-old clapboards may have needed repair and the daunting task of repainting the entire house might have been looming.

This new stucco promised freedom from those onerous jobs and the old house exterior would be brought right up-to-date for the modern era. Not only that, but for an additional cost, stucco could be incised so the house would appear to be made of very expensive ashlar stone.

How could one go wrong? In a few short years, many of the graceful old clapboard exteriors disappeared under stucco and the face of our streets changed forever.

Looking to the Stars

Good news: Venus and Mars are all right

Thursday, May 26: Saturn in Aquarius, Uranus in Taurus and Pluto in Capricorn are all in play today, but the most powerful aspect is thanks to the moon conjunct Venus in Aries. The temptation to take a chance, when offered, will be irresistible and that should prove to be sweet! It was May 26, 1967 that the Beatles' revolutionary "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" was released. I was in Sam the Record Man's flagship store on Yonge Street in Toronto and saw a gleeful Seiji Ozawa, music director of the Toronto Symphony at the time, purchase his copy.



Friday, May 27: Guard against impulsive words and actions today. Pause before you hurt yourself or someone close to you. Maurice "The Rocket" Richard, the great right winger for the Montreal Canadiens, died on May 27, 2000, at age 78.

Saturday, May 28: Venus enters Taurus, her domicile sign. When Venus is in Taurus, we find it easier to connect and honour our feelings – without guilt or self-doubt. This is a great transit for everyone, so take advantage of the upcoming weeks and make sure to "do" Venus things: self-care, eat nutritious food, indulge in sensual experiences. Another great thing about Venus's ingress into Taurus is that we now have both Venus and Mars in the signs of their maximum strength, which is great news for relationships. May 28, 1936, was the day Alan Turing submitted his "On Computable Numbers," the theory for all modern computers – and in doing so he changed the course of history.

Sunday, May 29: Mars is conjunct Jupiter. Mars conjunct Jupiter is a bold, action-driven transit that will make things happen. Whatever is put into motion now will have a

long-lasting impact. Of course, this is not an energy to mess around with or exploit for selfish, unhealthy reasons. It was May 29, 1953 that Mount Everest was successfully climbed by Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay, his Sherpa guide.

Monday, May 30: Today, we have a new moon in Gemini. This is our first lunation out of the eclipse season. Things are slowly getting back to normal. The new moon applies a wide sextile to the Mars-Jupiter conjunction in Aries, while the new moon ruler, Mercury – now stationary and ready to turn direct – is trine Pluto and square Saturn. There is a sense of "I'm there, but not quite there." Mercury is drawing our attention to a big decision we need to make. Things will soon clear up, when on June 3, Mercury goes direct. It was May 30, 1431, that Joan of Arc was burned at the stake for "wearing men's clothes," considered proof that she was a witch.

Tuesday, May 31: It's a lively day with the moon still in Gemini gets pushback from Neptune. Be on guard for foggy misinformation. Be honest. Terry Sawchuk, perhaps the greatest goalie in the NHL, died on May 31, 1970, in New York City. After suffering from depression for many years, drinking eventually contributed to his death at age 40.

Wednesday, June 1: While the cosmos is in a giving mood at least once today, a sensitive Cancerian moon gets dinged by serious Saturn, knocking the mood off its feet. Be cautious. Today Alanis Morissette celebrates birthday #48. She's on tour this summer with a stop in Toronto on July 17.



Check out Bill Auchterlonie's podcast, Looking up to the Stars with ad libs and music at www.lutts.ca.

Astrology is a form of entertainment, not a science.



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Elveana Kamin



KAMIN, Elveana (née Bienkowski) - Nov. 4, 1937 - May 17, 2022

It is with broken hearts and eternal love that we mourn the passing of our beloved wife, mother and grandmother, Elveana Kamin on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at the age of 84, with family by her side.

Cherished wife of John for 55 years. Devoted mother of Rebecca (Jamie King) and Cynthia (Kevin Lamotte). Adored grandmother of Connor, Dylan and Charlotte. Although our hearts are heavy with grief, we find peace in knowing she is now at home with her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and reunited in heaven with her parents Minnie and Anton, her parents-in-law Marta and Kris, and her sister Eugenia.

Mom was born in Wadena, Saskatchewan, and moved to St. Catharines, Ontario as a young girl. She returned to the family homestead in Saskatchewan during her summers to provide support to her beloved grandmother. She met the love of her life, John, at a ballroom dance studio and they married on June 25, 1966 at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria. They built a home, a family, and a beautiful life in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Mom and Dad walked through life holding hands and enjoyed dancing along the way.

While Mom was the best wife and mother, her greatest role was that of grandmother. She would beam with pride and joy, watching her grandchildren grow and experience life's milestones. She never missed a soccer game, race, dance or music recital and was also the first to arrive. Her words of encouragement and loving advice will always remain with them.

Mom will be remembered for her kindness, compassion, and friendship. She always volunteered to help at school and church functions, opened her purse to give money to someone in need, and offered support to any family needing a helping hand with childcare. Mom had a gift of conversation and could make a friend waiting in a grocery store line. She was a great listener, and everyone seemed so comfortable sharing life's joys and sorrows with her. While Mom enjoyed many friendships over the years, her enduring friendship with Terry Morin was most special to her.

Mom treasured celebrations, religious holidays and family traditions. She loved cooking for a crowd, hosting family dinners, and never hesitated to make homemade perogies at a moment's notice for her grandchildren. No matter how casual the occasion, she would leave the house wearing a dress, earrings, high heels and a matching purse. Mom had a sharp mind and a talent for quickly solving math problems. Some of her happiest days were spent at the family cottage, cooking a big breakfast, dancing and singing along to her favourite country songs and playing "just one more game" of Canasta. She touched our lives in so many ways and we will be forever thankful for all she did to bring joy to those around her.

Mom was a woman of great faith and believed in the power of prayer. She would dedicate hours of her evenings praying for her family and those in need. If she heard that someone was struggling, she would always say "Don't worry, let them know I will keep them in my prayers." And she really did. We also remember her special goodbyes, always calling out "God be with you, be good. May your guardian angels watch over you." We take comfort knowing she is now watching over us. Her love will remain in our hearts forever.

A private funeral mass was held at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Thursday May 19, 2022 followed by the rite of committal at Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery.

As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be given to the Heart & Stroke Foundation or McMaster Children's Hospital. Memories, photos, and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



Bracelet winners enjoy time at fair

From left: Landen Dick, Dean Velsink, Peyton Leigh and Maya Webster were winners of The Lake Report's bracelet giveaway contest last week and enjoyed a day of free rides at the Virgil Stampede. Congratulations!

Anneliese Jaeger



JAEGER, Anneliese Dawn - Oct. 12, 1973 - May 18, 2022

In the early hours of Wednesday, May 18, 2022, Anneliese passed away peacefully, comforted by her sister at her side, and knowing she was well loved by her family, friends and the community of Niagara-on-the-Lake. She spent her final week calm and pain free in the compassionate care of Hospice Niagara Stabler Centre surrounded by her loved ones. Anneliese is lovingly missed by her children Jack, Claire and Lukas and their father Mike Friesen, sister Carolyn (Steve and children Coen, Cameron), brother Matthew (Amanda and children Reese, Will) and her parents Ruth and Rudy. Her memory will be cherished by her Uncle Jack (Michelle), her numerous cousins and her extended family, friends and colleagues.

Anneliese always blessed everyone with a brilliant smile that brought joy to all and shared her marvelous sense of humor to enrich their days.

Please join the family in her Celebration of Life, including an early evening meal on Friday, May 27 at 2:30 p.m. at Cornerstone Community Church, 434 Hunter Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to: Hospice Niagara Stabler Centre (www.hospiceniagara.ca), Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service (www.notlpc.com) or Cornerstone Community Church (www.ccchurch.ca).

Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



Pieter Buis



BUIS, Pieter D. -

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Pieter on Friday, May 20, 2022, at the St. Catharines General Hospital, at the age of 91. Beloved husband of Margaret for 69 years. Devoted father of Peter, Janine (Joe Macies) and Kevin (Jacqueline Osvirk). Loved and cherished Opa of Dalton Thomson (Celina), Morgan Buis, Lexi Buis, Christopher Macies (Matthew LeBaron), Jasmine Macies (Austin Siegfried), Rebecca Macies, Keelan Buis, Aidan Buis, Dr. Erica Dowling (Steven), Dr. Alicia Mattia (Dr. Dan Segal) and John Mattia (Alicia). Great Opa of Elliott, Violet, Madison, Gray, Sam, Lev, Mackenzie, David and Isla. Dear brother of Trudy Ruiter, Vera DeLaat (John) and Adrian Buis (Connie). Brother-in-law of Elizabeth Buis-Gardin (Gino Gardin) and MaryLou

Scholl. Predeceased by brothers Rev. John Buis, Cees Buis (Riek), Gerry Buis, Joseph Buis, sister Corrie Bakker (Jan), and brother-in-law Ted Ruiter. Fondly remembered by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Pieter and Margaret were married in Holland on May 19, 1953, and flew to Canada the next day. Four years later, they purchased Glenlake Orchards and settled in Niagara. Pieter was recognized by the Niagara North Federation of Agriculture for his lifetime achievement in farming. He served as chair of the Niagara Peninsula Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association. He worked on several committees for the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association and served as president of the Niagara North Federation of Agriculture and as a representative in Toronto at the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. He was a member of the Fresh Fruit Board, chair of the Ontario Tender Fruit Marketing Board, and served as a member of the farm credit appeal board. Pieter was an honorary member of the Ontario Institute of Professional Agrologists. After he retired from farming, he picked up golfing and winemaking. He was a lifetime member of the American Wine Society and won many awards over the years for his wine.

Pieter was also active in the community. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and the St. Vincent de Paul parish choir. He coached in the Niagara Minor Hockey Association and participated on the Niagara Township Parks and Recreation Committee. He was instrumental in the amalgamation of the Niagara Township and Niagara-on-the-Lake. The family will receive friends at MORGAN FUNERAL HOME, 415 Regent St., Niagara-on-the-Lake, on Thursday, May 26, 2022, from 2-4 & 6-8 p.m. Funeral mass will be celebrated at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 73 Picton St. on Saturday, May 28, 2022, at 10 a.m. The rite of committal will follow in Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery. As an expression of sympathy, those who wish may make a memorial donation to either Diabetes Canada or Operation Smile. Memories, photos, and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



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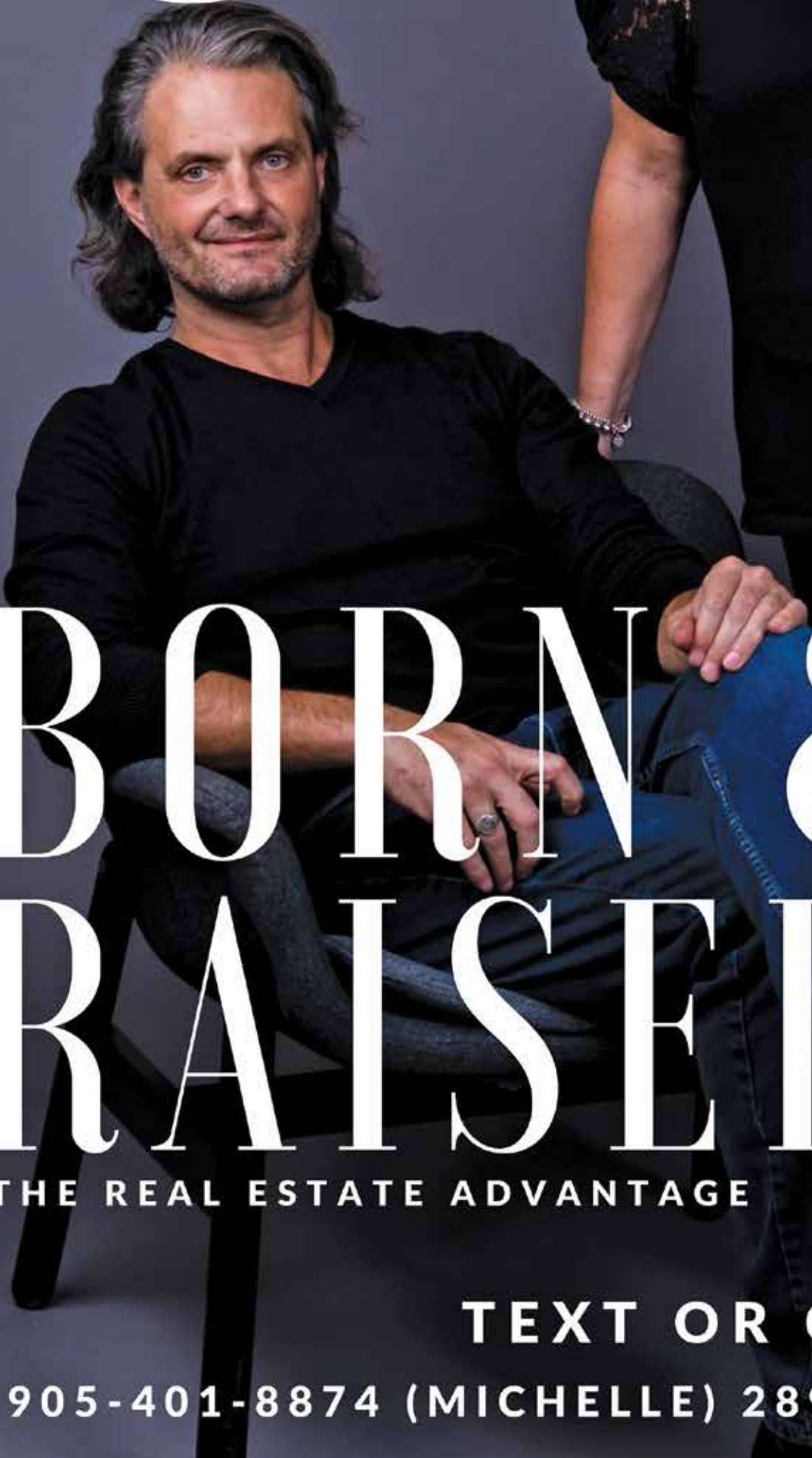
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