



NOTL extends patio program, debates making it permanent

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Streetside patios across Niagara-on-the-Lake will continue to be a staple through 2022 – and possibly forevermore.

Town councillors Monday voted unanimously in favour of extending the temporary patio program for all of next year. They also discussed making the program permanent.

“There’s no question in my mind that patios are here to stay,” Lord Mayor Betty Disero said.

“People like them on

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Candlelight Stroll proceeds will help Virgil teen

Staff
The Lake Report

The NOTL Chamber of Commerce, organizer of the Candlelight Stroll, has named Virgil teenager Devon Botbyl as this year’s recipient of money raised from candle sales.

Devon was born with a rare chromosome condition that leaves him with global delays and autistic tendencies.

During the COVID pandemic he has been suffering from the isolation as many

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NOTL highlighted in ‘Little Canada’ exhibit

Founder fell in love with little town that reminds him of Europe, chose to feature in exhibit



Niagara-on-the-Lake plays a big part in the Little Niagara section of the exhibit, now open to the public in Toronto. SUPPLIED

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

The little town of Niagara-on-the-Lake just got a lot smaller.

Niagara-on-the-Lake is one of the pieces of a highly detailed miniature attraction called Little Canada that’s on display in Toronto and is now open to visitors. The project took 10 years to complete and is

meant to show off Canadian landscapes and intricate landmarks.

And you can go visit it, and even place a miniature version of yourself inside.

Jean-Louis Brenninkmeijer, founder of the exhibit, said it was an idea he’d had for a long time, one that really came to fruition after his sons were assigned a project in school to do research about Canada’s prov-

inces. Having only recently moved to Canada at the time, he said it was an educational experience for his whole family.

“My wife and I learned more about Canada through those projects than living here and so that was one of the inspirations for me to do this,” he said in an interview.

Brenninkmeijer grew up in London’s Wimbledon

neighbourhood. His family owns the C&A store chain, one of Europe’s largest retailers.

“I came to Canada in ‘99 and never heard of Wayne Gretzky, never heard of Terry Fox. I thought that basketball was invented by an American. And it wasn’t until, in fact the 2010 Olympics that I realized that William Shatner, who was a great idol of mine when I

was growing up and watching ‘Star Trek,’ that Captain Kirk was a Canadian. I was literally blown away.”

He has also always been fascinated with miniature exhibits and building models. He said years ago he visited Miniature Wonderland, the largest model railway in the world in Hamburg, Germany.

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Animal control officer feels abandoned by town

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

After 22 years, Ken Reid expected at least a phone call from someone at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake that the municipality was looking at other options for animal control.

It never happened and instead he found out from a bylaw department employee that his job was hanging by a thread.

“That’s what hurt the most,” NOTL’s longtime canine control officer said in an interview on Remembrance Day.

“After this much time they didn’t even give me the consideration to inform me that they were going to be eliminating the position.”

Reid said he had no idea his job was coming to an end until he asked about his contract.

“I went to the town, I talked to the bylaw supervisor just because normally they talk to me about redoing my contract in November. So, they usually contact me before that, but I heard nothing,” he said.

“So, end of October, it was like the 21st or something like that, I just happen to be talking to the bylaw

supervisor so I said, ‘Hey, do you know what’s going on with the canine control contract?’”

“All he said to me was, ‘The town’s going in a different direction. You should check out the website.’”

Reid said he was surprised he had not been informed much earlier since the change must have been in the planning stages for some time.

“If I didn’t reach out to start asking questions, I’m not sure that I’d even know about it now,” he said.

“I would think that they

Continued on Page 8



Ken Reid bought a new vehicle for \$3,500 for his job not knowing his contract with the town was in jeopardy. SUPPLIED

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NOTL extends patio program, considers making it permanent

Continued from Front Page

Queen Street, they like them in Virgil and in other areas.”

Scott Gauld, owner of the Sunset Grill on Queen Street, sees the decision as nothing but a good thing for businesses, residents and visitors.

“It’s great news,” he said in an interview.

Gauld built a roadside patio outside the Sunset Grill in 2020 thanks to the town’s temporary patio program, created as a response to COVID-19.

“Patios have been a life-saver. All restaurants would have been in a really big bind without programs like this throughout the country,” he said.

Disero looked to the future and asked chief administrator Marnie Cluckie if there could be a streamlined way for restaurants to apply for their patios as permanent fixtures.

Director of operations Craig Larmour said, in Old Town, the solution is simple. Restaurants could apply for their patios, which spill onto the street and remove viable parking revenue for the town, and pay a fee to cover the lost revenue.

In other areas of the municipality, like Virgil or St.



A group of friends of the Sandtrap helped build their temporary patio in 2020. Now it might be able to stay. FILE

Davids, restaurants would have to apply for a minor variance or zoning bylaw amendment to make the patios permanent since the addition would change the approved layout of the sites, Larmour said.

But such details will be worked out in the future.

Disero wanted staff to start considering ways to simplify the process for restaurateurs before it becomes an issue at the end of next year.

The mayor wants the town to be able to reach out to restaurateurs and say, “If you are looking at keeping your patio long-term or forever, this is what you need to do. Get them going down that process sooner than later.”

Gauld said the Sunset Grill would absolutely apply for a permanent patio on Queen Street if the town made the option available.

“We’d be willing to adapt to whatever council

and the heritage committee thought fit best in the town,” he said.

“We’ve tried to do our best to put the best patio out there that we can and we’ll likely do a big refresher on it before the 2022 season.”

Disero said the patios have been a positive change on Queen Street.

“I like them. I’m sure that they’re helpful,” she said. “They bring more busyness and a sense of people wanting to be down

on Queen just to sit and watch people walk by.”

Gauld agreed.

“(Patios) bring a certain vibrancy to the town that we didn’t have before. People are outside on the street earlier and later in the day, which is good for everybody,” he said.

“It’s a beautiful place to sit. People just like watching people, watching traffic and enjoying the scenery.”

Gauld said people are more comfortable sitting

outside than they are inside due to COVID and he doesn’t think that is going to change after the pandemic is over.

Disero suggested the town consult residents and store owners in the new year about how patios could be responsibly incorporated onto Queen Street.

Coun. Gary Burroughs said he was in favour of the temporary program but was not ready to throw his support behind permanent patios on Queen Street.

“It amazes me that council, this particular council, looks at our Queen Street and the whole of historic Niagara-on-the-Lake as things that need change when we’re probably internationally known better than any other community,” Burroughs said during the committee of the whole meeting.

He reminded councillors the program was started because restaurants were not allowed to have anyone inside their establishments last year due to COVID-19.

“I think we need to move cautiously to suddenly change the whole of Queen Street that everybody’s come to know and, I think, to love. I’ve certainly loved it since I came here in ‘64.”

Boy pinned between two vehicles at St. Michael is recovering in hospital

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



St. Michael Catholic Elementary School. EVAN SAUNDERS

A 10-year-old boy has been flown to an out-of-region hospital with non-life-threatening injuries after being pinned between two cars Monday morning in the parking lot at St. Michael Catholic Elementary School in Virgil.

The boy was trying to get his backpack out of the back of his mother’s vehicle when the car behind them “moved forward and struck the boy, pinning him between both vehicles,” Niagara Regional Police Services Const. Jesse Vujasic told The Lake Report in an email.

Bryce Brunarski, superin-

tendent of public relations with Niagara Emergency Medical Services, said the boy suffered a broken leg, though he wasn’t able to specify which part of the leg was broken.

Niagara-on-the-Lake firefighters were called to the scene at about 9 a.m., said chief Nick Ruller.

“Firefighters from Station 3 were dispatched for a report that a child had a leg injury from a motor vehicle

collision,” Ruller said Monday afternoon.

The injury is serious but non-life-threatening and the boy is “stable, alert and talking,” Brunarski said in an interview.

“Mom was with him, thankfully, the whole time, which is good.”

Brunarski wasn’t sure which hospital the boy was flown to but said it was done so he could receive “more definitive care.”

Region seeks input on diversity

Staff
The Lake Report

People from all backgrounds across Niagara are being asked for their input to help make the region a more welcoming and inclusive community for everyone.

The survey is the first major project undertaken by the Region of Niagara’s diversity, equity and inclusion advisory committee, a group established earlier this year to address the negative impacts of bias and discrimination on health and safety.

“Everyone in Niagara has the right to live in a safe, welcoming and respectful community,” regional chair Jim Bradley said in a statement an-

nouncing the project.

“Listening to the lived experiences of our community members is the first step in making that happen, and we want as many individuals as possible to speak up and have their voice heard,” he said.

Until Dec. 1, Niagara residents can take a short online survey to share any experiences of discrimination they have witnessed or experienced in Niagara and their ideas to eliminate that discrimination.

The survey also includes some demographic questions such as ethnicity, education and gender – data that will help identify differences in experiences among individuals or groups and ensure the survey includes people

from Niagara’s diverse populations.

The region says the survey should take about 20 minutes to complete and is available in both English and French. Survey responses are confidential and no personal information will be shared.

The diversity committee, composed of regional councillors and community members, works with staff and the community to make Niagara more welcoming, diverse and inclusive.

Feedback gathered through the survey will be used as the committee and region create Niagara’s first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Plan, due to be completed in 2022.



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Santa **crui**ses around NOTL on Dec. 11

Staff
The Lake Report

Santa Claus is due to make his annual visit to Niagara-on-the-Lake on Saturday, Dec. 11, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

With the regular Christmas parade cancelled again due to COVID concerns, Santa Around the Town will feature drive-by visits by Jolly Old Saint Nicholas through all five Niagara-on-the-Lake communities.

He'll be aboard a festive float, which will give residents an opportunity to wave and shout a Merry Christmas to everyone's favourite man in red.

And don't forget, parents: as Santa mentioned in a story he wrote for The Lake Report a few weeks ago, "Please call out the names of the children along the way or hold signs, black on white with large letters, really helps me. My vision isn't what it once was. Ho, ho, ho."

The parade will wind its way through all of NOTL's main neighbourhoods, starting with Glendale, then St. Davids, Queenston, Old Town and finishing in Virgil.

In case of poor weather, the parade could be moved to Sunday, Dec. 12.



For a virtual map of Santa's route, see the town's website at notl.com/santa.

Town continues to support **independent** journalism

Evan Saunders
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has chosen to continue supporting local news.

Councillors unanimously voted Monday to continue advertising in NOTL's newspapers on an

as-needed basis and in any special feature editions, like The Lake Report's upcoming Winter magazine.

Coun. Allan Bisback asked chief administrator Marnie Cluckie about the circulation statistics for the three newspapers in town.

Cluckie noted that The Lake Report has the high-

est distribution, with 9,300 copies delivered via Canada Post and about 700 more hand-delivered.

The Lake Report distributes its papers free to all homes and businesses in NOTL but relies on advertising revenue to pay the bills.

The newspaper welcomes

donations of any size from anyone who would like to support the independent press in NOTL.

As great South African leader Nelson Mandela said to the International Press Institute in 1994, "A critical, independent and investigative press is the lifeblood of any democracy."

Free parking in Old Town returns for December

Staff
The Lake Report

The Christmas tradition of free parking in downtown Niagara-on-the-Lake returns this December.

Shoppers heading down to Old Town for the holiday season won't have to

worry about dishing out cash or credit or using the Honk app after councillors unanimously voted in favour of free parking for the entire month during Monday's committee of the whole meeting.

Coun. Erwin Wiens noted the municipality has permitted free parking

every December for several years – but councillors have to debate and approve it every year.

He suggested the town consider grandfathering the practice and making it a permanent staple of town policy.

Coun. Allan Bisback dis-

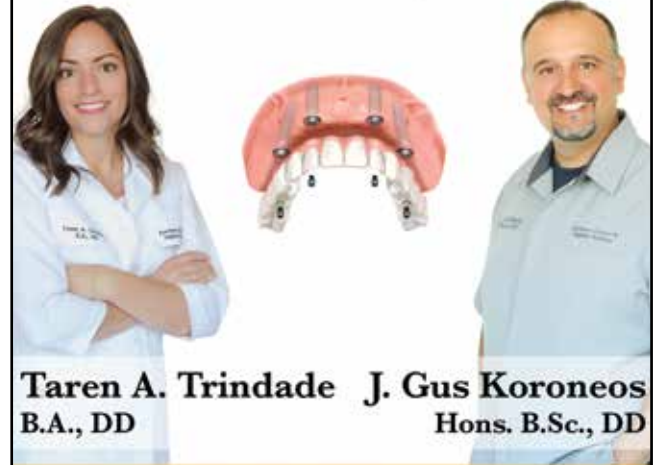
agreed, saying any decision that affects finances needs to be reviewed annually. Council rejected Wiens's idea and only approved free parking for the month.

The gratis parking at all meters and lots for the entire downtown area commences Dec. 1.

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Candlelight Stroll proceeds will help **Virgil teen** Devon Botbyl

Continued from Front Page

of his service programs had been cancelled and he recently was in hospital for cancer treatment.

Devon will continue his treatments as an outpatient for now and has a great support system with parents Dani and Scott, and younger sister Elise.

Candles, at one for \$3 and two for \$5, will be available at a number of locations the night of the Dec. 3 stroll.

“The return of the Candlelight Stroll is a positive symbol of who we are in Niagara-on-the-Lake,” said Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

“While we celebrate during this special season, our purchase of candles will help Devon Botbyl through a very difficult time. I am so proud of the chamber for organizing this lovely event again this year.”

The chamber also will be donating \$1,000 to the Farmworker Hub to help it raise \$15,000 to cover operating costs.

The hub, located in Virgil at Cornerstone Church, provides free clothing, household items and food to the fantastic Farmworkers.



Festive carolers from Grace United Church sing hymns during the 2019 Candlelight Stroll. FILE

Another part of the tradition of the Candlelight Stroll is the food drive for Newark Neighbours.

Attendees can bring their donations the night of the stroll and drop them off at any of the candle stalls for collection.

Newark Neighbours pro-

vides Christmas hampers for over 50 families over the holidays and needs stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables and gravy – all the ingredients to help make a beautiful holiday dinner.

The stroll begins outside the Court House on Queen

Street at 6:45 p.m. and winds its way through the Heritage District. It will be led by horse-drawn carriages from Sentineal Carriages. Masks are required for everyone attending the event.

“We are thrilled to get the green light from the govern-

ment to give our community their beloved Candlelight Stroll back this year,” said chamber president Eduardo Laffogue.

“After hosting last year’s event as a virtual event, we are happy to provide a piece of normality again with our regular stroll as we

celebrate the holiday season together.”

There is plenty of parking available at Fort George. A complimentary shuttle will run to the Court House from 5 to 9:30 p.m. Otherwise, organizers note, it is a six-minute walk to the start of the stroll.

Candles can be purchased at the visitors centre found in the centre of the parking lot. Food donations for Newark Neighbours can also be taken there.

If there are any choirs, bands or other musical groups that would like to be part of the stroll they can contact Nicole Cripps at the Chamber of Commerce 905-468-1950. Nicole says, “we have many choirs and groups that have been performing at the Stroll for many years but it always nice to add new groups who would like to be part of the holiday tradition.”

We are looking forward to seeing everyone on December 3rd and kicking off the Holiday season with this well-loved tradition. More information can be found at <https://www.niagaraon-thelake.com/candlelight-stroll>

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Jillian Best points to her name engraved on the plaque commemorating solo swims across Lake Ontario. A ceremony Sunday at Queen's Royal Park celebrated the swims by Best and two other athletes. EVAN SAUNDERS

Marathon swims for good causes recognized

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Jillian Best is proud to have her name commemorated as the first recipient of an organ donation and 66th person overall to swim across Lake Ontario.

"It's a real honour," Best said with a big smile on Sunday morning.

"Everybody's real supportive and it's exciting to have my name on a piece of history."

On Sunday, people gathered in Queen's Royal Park around the lakeside plaque commemorating successful swims across Lake Ontario to see the newest additions unveiled.

The three new names were Jillian Best, Juan Gabriel Acosta and Robert McGlashan.

McGlashan, a lawyer from Toronto, swam from Oakville to Port Dalhousie in August, wasn't there. But Best and Acosta were on hand for the commemoration and to talk about their motivations for the arduous undertaking.

Best made history as the first organ transplant

recipient to conquer the lake. Raising awareness about organ transplants was her real goal, though.

"Our mission is to reduce the waitlist for an organ transplant," Best said.

"Attaching a swim like this to a cause that means so much to me made it so much bigger."

Best is participating in the Move for Life Foundation's 1,600-kilometre relay next year to again boost awareness about organ transplants in Ontario, she said.

She received a liver transplant six years ago and now, "I'm better than ever. Happier, stronger and overall I have a better life."

Best said she grew up swimming in pools but got involved in competitive swimming after her transplant.

"It was the World Transplant Games that led me back to swimming and it was a big part of my recovery," she said.

The games have been held since the 1970s and offer a competitive field for people who are alive thanks to organ transplants, the organization's website says.

More than 70 countries participate in the games. A summer games is held every two years with winter games occurring during the interval.

Best competed in the World Transplant Games in 2019 and set several records in the categories she participated in.

She hopes to do more long-distance swims in the future, saying she is particularly drawn to an open ocean swim.

But, since Best lives in London, Ont., she doesn't have an ocean to train in.

"To do all the Great Lakes would be really cool," she said.

Best trained extensively in Lake Erie for her Lake Ontario swim and suspects that shallow body of water might be her next undertaking. Except she has a soft spot for Lake Huron.

"It's so beautiful. Everyday that I swam in Lake Huron it was clear and you could see the bottom," she said.

Juan Gabriel Acosta is a cardiologist in Hamilton and his swim aimed to raise awareness for autism,

something that strikes a personal chord in Acosta's life.

Acosta has two nephews with autism. When one of them was 17, he died by suicide.

"He suffered bullying and he had a really tough life," Acosta said.

"I was just trying to gather funds to see if we could improve the quality of life for youth with autism."

He saw the swim as a way to do something good out of the pain of losing his nephew.

"This was really big for me and my family. We're trying to use the fundraiser to turn it into something positive," he said.

"(We want to) help other people that may be going through what (my nephew) was going through."

Acosta held a small figurine to symbolize the nephew which spurred on his swim across Lake Ontario.

Donations for Acosta's cause can be made at aguaforautism.com.

To support Best's work for organ donations, go to moveforlifefoundation.com.

Bottle drop-off gets new location

The drop off at J&S Performance is closing on Nov. 27. Empties will no longer be accepted after that date at 901 East West Line. New 'pop-up' drop-offs will be announced in the new year, beginning on Jan. 8, 2022. Watch for location. Save up your empties over the holidays and donate them at pop-ups around the community. Large pick-ups may be arranged earlier by request. Huge thank you to the community, the Ruttans and the Van Noorts for their support as the drop-off was the only source of fundraising during the pandemic. We received overwhelming support. **NOTL rocks!**

CADET NEWS

- Newark 809 Air Cadets celebrate their 50th anniversary.
- Wednesday evening 'Parade' nights are back.
- Three pop-ups are planned for January 8, May 28, and July 9, 2022. Locations TBA.



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



NOTL active cases: 14
Region active cases: 236
Region deaths: 439
Region total cases: 18,617
Region resolved cases: 17,942

*Nov. 17 data per Niagara Region Public Health



Contributed by Patty Garriock
 "The moment one gives close attention to anything, even a blade of grass, it becomes a mysterious, awesome, indescribably magnificent world in itself." - Henry Miller

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Editorial

Whenever help is needed

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

Good news: Newark Neighbours, the food bank and thrift store that has been a community fixture in Niagara-on-the-Lake for 50 years, is expanding, having outgrown the building it has called home since 1992.

Bad news: That a community like Niagara-on-the-Lake – or any community in Canada, a country blessed with so much – should need a food bank and thrift store to help the less fortunate.

But that is one of the cold realities of our world.

Despite all the resources and affluence enjoyed by so many communities, just

like ours, the gap between the haves and the have-nots seems not to have narrowed.

Thank goodness for organizations like Newark Neighbours and the foresight a half-century ago of founders Peggy Anderson and Nikki Aiken, who launched the agency in 1971.

From the roots they set down a couple of generations ago has grown a vital and essential organization that helps those in need.

Across Niagara, NOTL is often associated with wealth and abundance. In many measurable ways that is accurate and some in the region are quick to denigrate this town for it.

That attitude is misplaced and unfair. We're not perfect, but the people, service clubs, community groups and businesses of Niagara-on-the-Lake are always quick to step up when their community needs it.

That is undoubtedly one reason why Newark Neighbours has flourished as a social agency.

It is also a reason why we are confident that NOTLers will pull together to find a new home for Newark Neighbours.

We also wish to acknowledge United Way Niagara and the accounting/consulting firm MNP.

As featured this week in The Lake Report, the two

have teamed up to help raise thousands of dollars for the important work done by United Way agencies.

The \$25,000 new donor matching program means MNP will double the impact of new contributions. This kind of corporate leadership is welcome – and needed.

We appreciate companies like MNP supporting the communities where their employees and customers live and work.

One aspect of a life well lived is about making a difference and we encourage everyone to support these community causes as best as they are able.

editor@niagaranow.com

Outstanding coverage on importance of Remembrance Day

Dear editor:

Sometimes it is simply a pleasure to write a letter to the editor congratulating him, his newspaper and contributing staff on their great efforts in reporting on a very important and human issue.

The Lake Report's extensive coverage in the Nov. 11 edition of the Remembrance Day activities, their deep meaning and purpose was, in my opinion, outstanding.

The article on animals-of-war, who also suffered

greatly, was particularly touching and I sincerely hope that the purple poppy will be more visible, as it should be, in future ceremonies.

Canadians and their Indigenous allies can be rightfully proud of the great

sacrifices made by their men and women in their long and more recent past (but not forgotten) contributions in maintaining freedom for us all.

Derek Collins
 NOTL

Magnificent oak tree cut down by Chautauqua owner

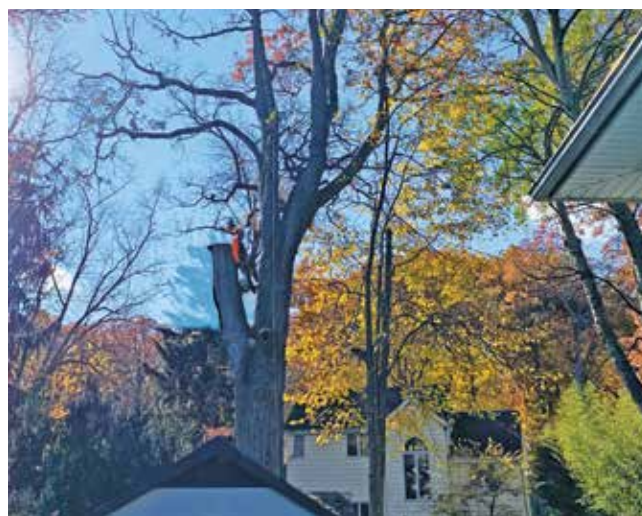
Dear editor:

On Saturday, Nov. 13, the neighbourhood of Chautauqua, and Niagara-on-the-Lake as a whole, lost one of its oldest and longest-serving residents.

The massive oak that had lived on Vincent Avenue for well over 200 years, one of the tallest in the neighbourhood and vibrantly healthy, was cut down for no specific reason.

Amid jeering remarks from the noble young men in their flying trapezes, the owner of the property showed me one of those "THIS IS NOT A PERMIT" permits, issued by the NOTL forestry service, indicating the tree was more than 70 per cent dead and a hazard to the public.

The tree was already 30 per cent cut down and the cut pile of 28-inch diameter trunks were without any signs of decay or rot whatsoever. In fact, the remain-



An oak tree is cut down on Vincent Avenue. SUPPLIED

ing standing tree was still with leaf.

The loss of this tree will have an immediate impact on the local environment. A loss of food and habitat for the local wildlife, the visual scar that the absence of this magnificent tree creates in our skyline and a massive gap in the windbreak that the line of trees once provided.

Chautauqua enjoys a very local and noticeable microclimate, specifically because our tall trees mitigate the winter storms and summer heat.

I am not surprised that some people do not feel empathy for trees and often see them as a threat and a hindrance.

For these people, there are so many already clear-cut

residential areas to choose from. Why come into a well-treed neighbourhood and immediately cut down the trees?

Chautauqua has lost about one-third of its tall trees in the last dozen years. Do the math: soon there will not be a tall tree left and we'll be an alternately scorched and frozen, poorly dressed neighbourhood.

What does surprise me is that people see no value in trees. Their contribution to our comfort is one thing, but to send a huge, healthy oak tree into the chipper? Has anyone priced oak at the lumber store?

Today, British Columbia is a disaster area because of years of clear-cutting. Perhaps we have forgotten our way and lost sight of what has value. Let's open our eyes.

Victor Tarnoy
 NOTL

HEY NOTL! WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR DINNER?

← **Italian Pizza Pasta** or Spanish Tapas →

NAPLES-ON-THE-LAKE OR CATALONIA-ON-THE-LAKE



New board **takes reins** of NOTL Museum

Dear editor:

Curiosity got the better of me and I just had to know more about Niagara-on-the-Lake's history.

So, four years ago, I went to the source and put my name in the hat to join the Niagara Historical Society's board of directors. In October 2021, after serving four years as treasurer, I was nominated and elected by the members as the new president.

Better known as the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, this historical not-for-profit organization holds a place of honour and pride in NOTL – and takes that role very seriously.

We have been the custodian for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's collection for several years and, since 2019, have been the town historian for the archives.

This means we conduct historical research when town staff request it and we store more than 50,000 items (including documents) in our museum.

The organization is built on solid governance, has a dedicated board of directors, involved volunteers and a staff that is second to none. If you have not yet had the opportunity, I encourage you to drop by for a visit. You will not be disappointed.

The new executive of the board got together recently to talk about priorities over the next year. We were well taken care of and had a delicious meal at the Gate House (shopping local is important.)

Over the next three years, my focus will be on leadership, volunteers and our expansion.



Pictured clockwise from bottom left: Mona Babin (president), George Webber (vice-president), Ted Rumble (treasurer), Sarah Kaufman (managing director and curator), Alex Topps (secretary). SUPPLIED

If you want to get involved (for a day, a week, a month or a year), please reach out to Barbara Worthy, our visitor and member services assistant, at bworthy@nhsm.ca.

I look forward to meeting you at one of our many

events and hope to see you at History in the Vineyard on Dec. 9.

You can follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @notlmuseum.

Mona Babin
President
Niagara Historical Society

Cities, provinces, corporations and others were all part of Canada's **climate conference** contingent

Dear editor:

I am writing in response to the letter to the editor published in the Nov. 11 edition entitled "Why did Canada send so many to climate conference?". This letter was a republication of a letter sent to our MP, Tony Baldinelli.

I, too, was taken aback when I heard that Canada had sent the largest delegation to the COP 26 in Glasgow, Scotland. Why would a country with our population send so many delegates?

I decided this was worth looking into. So, I searched on Google and found the list of all country delegations to COP 26, which can be found here: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PLOP_COP26.pdf

Reviewing this list of Canadian delegations I noted there were, indeed, numerous representatives from the federal government, including the prime minister, the minister of environment and climate change, and the minister of natural resources as well as senior government officials.

I confess it took me a

while to figure out why our delegation would include the names of so many RCMP officers. Then it dawned on me that several members of the RCMP's International Protection Unit were there to protect the prime minister and cabinet ministers in attendance.

Members of the Surete du Quebec, also part of the delegation, were protecting the Quebec premier and members of the National Assembly who attended.

What I also observed while reviewing the list of Canada's delegation to COP 26 was the significant number of non-federal government delegates. These included the Conservative Party of Canada's shadow cabinet minister for the environment and climate change, MP Dan Albas, a Bloc Quebecois MP, the leader of the NDP, Jagmeet Singh, and representatives of the Green Party of Canada.

So much for the letter writer's hope that "... the Opposition will challenge the efficacy of this sort of gravy train ..." The opposition parties in the House of Commons were

in Glasgow, too.

Moreover, the non-federal government delegates included the premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, along with several of his provincial officials, the premier of Quebec, together with numerous Quebec government officials, Ontario's minister of environment, conservation and parks, David Piccini, along with Ontario officials, as well senior representatives from various other provincial and territorial governments including British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, PEI and the NWT.

The City of Montreal and the Quebec National Assembly also sent delegates to COP 26.

Canadian media outlets were also included in Canada's delegation, including CTV, Canadian Press, Global News, the Toronto Star, and Radio-Canada. So too were several organizations representing the interests of Indigenous Canadians, including the Assembly of First Nations, the Metis National Council and the National Inuit Youth Council.

Corporate Canada was

represented in Canada's delegation to COP 26, including Intact Financial Corporation, Suncor, Fortis Inc, ArcelorMittal, Bank of Montreal, Enerkem, Biothermica Carbone Inc. and Vancity Community Investment Bank. Not to be outdone by corporate Canada, labour unions attending COP 26 as part of Canada's delegation included the Canadian Labour Congress, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation and the National Union of Public and General Employees.

Reviewing the list of Canada's COP 26 delegates was an eyeopener for me.

My initial instinct to think it was a big government of Canada boondoggle evaporated quickly as I surveyed the list and saw the depth and breadth of those who attended.

We may have a relatively small population, but Canadians' interest in the impact of climate change on our country is huge.

It was certainly worth the time I spent digging in to learn the facts.

In fact, it always is.

Alan Young
NOTL



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Ken Reid says he **wasn't told** his contract was in jeopardy

Continued from Front Page

should have given me some sort of written notice or had me involved somehow ahead of time.”

NOTL has issued a formal request for proposals, in partnership with the Town of Grimsby, for the two municipalities to hire shared animal control services. The RFP also states that other municipalities in the region could join in the future if they so choose.

The RFP, which can be found on the Town of Grimsby's website, calls for the successful bidder to be able to handle all issues involving domestic, livestock and wildlife animals, and to be capable of starting on Jan. 1, 2022.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said her discussions with chief administrator Marnie Cluckie “led me to understand that they dealt with (Reid) in a professional manner and notified him.”

However, Reid said, “As far as I'm concerned they still haven't officially given me any notice.”

“Reid has served this community well for 20 years,” Disero said in an interview on Nov. 8. “He answers the call when he gets one and is deserving of the respect of everyone in this town.”

Disero said the RFP is a result of the town hiring a new procurement officer, who is responsible for managing and acquiring contractors for the town's varied service needs.

“I think they are liable to go out and do a public open process for transparency,” she said.

“Whether or not (Reid) is out of a job is not my decision. I'm trying to sort out what happened and I'm sure staff will come forward with a statement as soon as they can.”

“I can't tell you more as I wasn't involved.” The change is a staffing issue and falls under Cluckie's purview as the chief administrative officer.

Despite requests by The Lake Report for an interview, Cluckie was not available for comment.

Reid said he has subsequently been told to put in



Ken Reid at his home on Regent Street. He pays nearly \$1,000 per month in property taxes and said he is unsure how he will afford the costs if his contract with the town is eliminated. SUPPLIED

an application. Considering the proposal has the potential to add more municipalities in Niagara and will involve all kinds of animals, Reid said there's no way he could provide the required services as a one-man operation.

“The only entities that could fulfil this contract would be the established SPCA or the Lincoln County Humane Society. They are the only ones with the infrastructure in place to take over on Jan. 1,” he said.

Any other contractor who applied for the role would need to invest hundreds of thousands of dollars in order to build the infrastructure to house domestic and wild animals, all in less than two months, he said.

Reid said he just spent \$3,500 on a new vehicle just so he could do his job. He started using it in September.

“Had I been in the loop at all I may not have had to spend that money,” he said, a good sum “for

someone who's going to be unemployed real soon.”

On top of that, Reid has lived on a large property on Regent Street for decades. His property tax bill is nearly \$1,000 a month and he said he doesn't know how he'll afford his home once his job with the town is over.

Reid, 68, said he isn't sure what kind of work he can do in the future but is considering his options.

“I am ready and willing to continue working (for the town) but I'm not given that option.”

The news that Reid, a staple of NOTL and respected worker in town, was going to lose his job has been the subject of a public outcry on social media. That prompted a phone call to Reid from Cluckie, he said.

It was the first time Reid had received any direct communication from the town about the situation, he said.

“(Cluckie) reached out to me to apologize,” he said.

But Reid said the apology was lacking.

“The way she worded it was, ‘I'm sorry you feel that way.’ To me, an apology would have been, ‘We're sorry we went about it this way and we didn't intend to,’ ” he said.

Reid said his contract costs the town about \$50,000 per year. He is on call from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week.

He estimates the price for all the new services will top \$150,000. “That's a big jump in budget.”

Reid said he couldn't think of any outstanding issues that would cause the town to relinquish his services and said he has been more than capable of covering all the calls that come in during the day.

The only reason he can think of that might have motivated the town is the desire to increase ticketing revenue.

“They haven't questioned the way I've done my job until the last couple of years. It got to the point where, to me it sounded like, ‘Where's the revenue from this?’ ” he said.

“In 22 years I've never personally (written a ticket). I've been overstepped by bylaw supervisors that have gone in and written tickets to certain people, and this is just lately.”

His focus has been on bylaw compliance and he never has an issue making that happen with NOTL residents, he said.

“I've found over the years that I can get a lot further and get absolute compliance with bylaws through discussion as opposed to fines,” he said.

The town's animal control bylaw lists its fines. The largest fine is \$250, equivalent to about 600 tickets annually if the new service does indeed cost the town \$150,000.

The RFP says there were about 115 dog complaints in 2020.

Reid sees the outcry about his precarious employment as a result of residents' fears NOTL is losing another one of its small-town characteristics.

“There's a lot of people unhappy that one of the last

bastions of small town feel is being taken away,” he said.

“No other community has their own animal control. I'm in a position now where, after 22 years, I know most of the dogs in town.”

Reid said when he finds a pup wandering the town he usually knows exactly who it belongs to and has the canine returned in a few hours at no cost to the owner.

“Now the dog will be picked up, whether it's known or not, taken out to wherever they'll be taken to and held for ransom,” he said.

Reid said the town has a history of knee-jerk reactions to wildlife problems, as exhibited by the hiring of a trapper for foxes a decade ago which resulted in a baby fox getting trapped.

The trapper was nowhere to be found and Reid and the humane society had to respond to the sounds of yelping at 2 a.m. and release the fox.

The town stopped using leg-hold traps after residents complained, according to news reports from 2008.

“Nobody knew those leg-hold traps were there. Any kid could have cut through that property and got his leg caught in it.”

He noted leg-hold traps are illegal. He said this RFP may be another knee-jerk reaction by the town spurred on by complaints about coyotes during the spring and early summer.


Reid lives near the Commons, an area that is home to coyotes, but over the decades has never had a problem with them.

“People just don't get the concept of wildlife. They don't want them here, they don't want to see them,” he said.

“I get complaints all the time of, ‘There's a raccoon in my backyard in the middle of the day. It must be sick,’ ” he said.


“No, it must be sunning itself because it's a nice day. It's not rocket science. But people are coming from the big city and they just don't want them there.”

Reid said he has always resisted interfering with NOTL's wildlife.





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Johnathan Sousa and Julia Course. Photo by Peter Andrew Luszyk. Michael Theriault in *A Christmas Carol* (2017). Photo by David Cooper. Jenny L. Wright and Kyle Blair in *Holiday Inn* (2019). Photo by Emily Cooper.

Ross's Ramblings: Museum is a treasure trove of **NOTL** history

Ross Robinson
The Lake Report

The weather was perfect at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum on a rainy and miserable Sunday afternoon here in our town.

The exhibits provided context for today's issues that dominate our discussions. And, as my tennis chef Dominic Ventresca emphasizes, you just can't have too much context when making decisions.

Son Scott and I were driving to Woodend Conservation Area for another challenging Sunday afternoon hike when the skies opened up. A wet, cold, muddy ordeal awaited us.

Pivoting deftly, he opined that since it was wet and cold outside, we should spend the afternoon indoors. We hadn't brought our Speedos, so the Great Wolf Lodge Waterpark was out of the question. Sad, because the weather is always perfect there.

Ah hah – the museum, which is top of mind now, with its amazing and emotional display of hand-crocheted poppies honouring Remembrance Day. We



The Swimming Saucer provided thrills on the Niagara River long before any jet boats arrived. SUPPLIED

turned the car around and headed to Castlereagh Street.

Stepping inside, we were greeted by Shawna Butts and Barbara Worthy. Enthusiastic, welcoming, professional and masked, these staffers seemed happy we were there. They pointed us in the right direction and off we went into the displays.

What surprises and learning awaited us! Not

a dry, dusty and pedantic wander through exhibits, but an engaging, colourful and almost conversational journey through the history of Niagara. Lotsa pictures, large fonts and just the right amount of information and education.

Who knew Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock never got to wear his famous hat? It arrived late, just after he had been felled by an enemy bullet at Queenston Heights.

Who knew about the "coloured village" in Old Town, with its hardworking residents who built their homes near Mary Street? Some 125 people known at the time as "coloured," made their lives here, with a school near St. Andrew's Church, and one man was elected to town council.

"Our Story" successfully brings our past to life, with large pictures of the Queenston Brockettes pa-

rade team and the Farmerettes, who enjoyed working so hard each summer. So many locals worked in the canning plants, dressed in perfectly white uniforms. This was all not that long ago and we were reminded how fast things change in our world.

And an interesting display detailing the introduction of temporary farm workers from offshore. Dozens then, thousands now. Not that long ago, my friends.

We learned that the Whirlpool Jetboat was not the first thrilling attraction on the Niagara River. Not that long ago, a local entrepreneur towed kids behind his "Swimming Saucer," before releasing the cord and sending them into the mighty Niagara.

And there were numerous outdoor skating rinks around town. At Simcoe Park and Lions Park (now known as Queen's Royal Park) with natural ice and boards.

Let's get modern and go online for an interesting look back at the Chautauqua area. Even then, hard to spell but easy to love. "If those streets could talk."

Visitors to our museum are reminded that horses and carriages have been a feature of NOTL for a long, long time. Whether it was delivering milk or bread, providing transportation, or allowing visitors to tour the area, "this is not new stuff, dear readers." Let's figger it out, eh?

A dramatic series of photographs limn Queen Street as it was. So much has changed, but so much is the same: The Court House, the Prince of Wales Hotel, and many storefronts. Speaking of which, on the prime corner of downtown, the northwest junction of Queen and King Streets, The Apothecary has an interesting and long history of commerce.

For many years, it has very rarely been open for business. Regularly now, tourists tug on the doors and peer in the windows. What's up in there?

As I ramble to a close, I encourage everyone to spend some educational and enjoyable time at our Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum. Context is king and the learning is easy. About 21C and dry, even on a rainy day.



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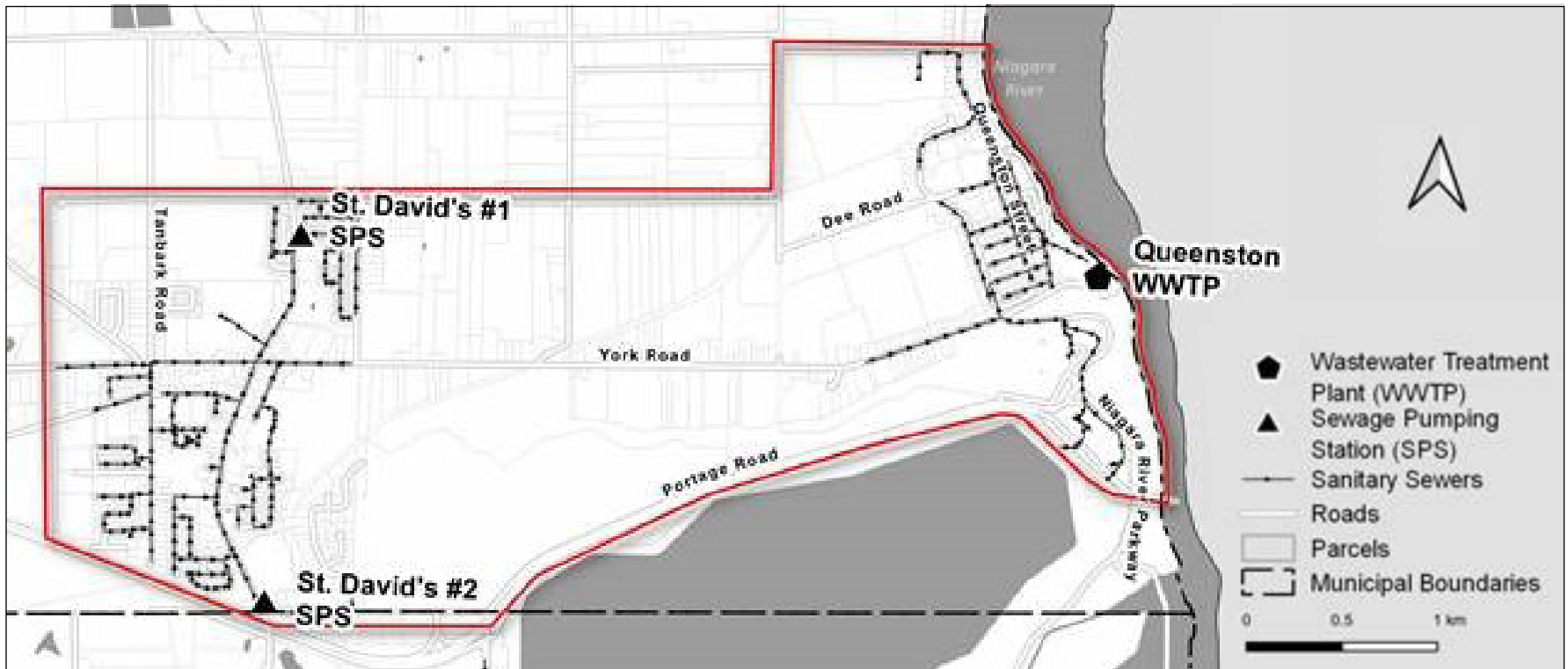
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Niagara Region has initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study to assess alternatives for wastewater servicing in the Queenston Wastewater Treatment Plant service area. This study will examine two servicing options: upgrading the existing Queenston Wastewater Treatment Plant or decommissioning the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant and redirect flows through a new sewage pumping station and forcemain to either of the sewage pumping stations in St. Davids.

The existing Wastewater Treatment Plant was constructed in 1989 and has since undergone equipment replacements and various maintenance activities while continuing to service the village of Queenston. Further upgrades are necessary if the plant is to continue operating efficiently. From a lifecycle perspective, it can be inefficient to operate small independent systems such as the Queenston treatment system. Considering this, Niagara Region has identified an opportunity to consolidate the Queenston Wastewater Treatment Plant flows with the Niagara Falls treatment system.

This study is being planned as a Schedule "B" Class EA, satisfying Phases 1 and 2 of the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) Municipal Class EA process, which is a planning process approved under Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act.

This study will define the problems and opportunities associated with the site, develop and evaluate alternative strategies, determine the most feasible solution, and identify methods to avoid or minimize impacts to the community and natural environment.

Niagara Region encourages the public and stakeholders to actively participate in this planning process. A Public Information Centre will be planned in early 2022 to present details about the study, the process used to decide on possible solutions and allow you the opportunity to share your comments and concerns. For more information, visit niagararegion.ca/projects/queenston-st-davids.

Upon completion of the study, a Project File Report documenting the study process will be prepared and made available for public review and comment. Anyone who wishes to comment on or to be involved in this study should indicate their interest, preferably in writing to one of the team members:

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Apple farmers continue **cider** tradition

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Just along Niagara Stone Road on the route in and out of Niagara-on-the-Lake, there's a small stand called The Purple Wagon that sells apples, garlic and more than 50 flavours of jams and jellies.

But one thing that's an extra special treat is their apple cider.

On a fall day in November, farmers Mike and Sandra Perreault are keeping warm in their truck while manning the stand, near Concession 6.

The couple have operated there for more than 25 years and the location has become a staple in town.

Mike says they have more than 1,000 apple trees on their combined 20 acres of land and each year they bring it to be pressed into cider without any additives whatsoever.

"Every year I'm going to count them. And every year I don't. But I think we got about 1,100 apple trees," Mike jokes, adding that they also grow pears, plums and concord grapes.

An 87-year-old farmer named John Wiens makes all the jams, jellies and preserves.

"This is his retirement hobby," Sandra says, adding their stand is actually on Wiens' land.

The couple typically begins



Sandra and Mike Perreault sling farm fresh cider and apples from their roadside stand. SUPPLIED

selling apple cider in early September.

Mike says cider is also a Christmas treat for some people. Like eggnog, often it's served with a splash of spiced liquor.

The couple don't press their own apples and instead drive them about an hour north to a place called Bennett's Apples & Cider in Ancaster, Ont. Once they've arrived it takes about 45 minutes to press a tonne of apples and then they're on their way back home.

Mike says about 15 varieties of apples go into the cider, and they grow about 25 varieties.

"Now as we get closer to the end, we'll only have

maybe 10 types, but they're way sweeter," he says, noting apples are like grapes – when it gets colder, the fruits get sweeter.

Their cider is so fresh, it must be shaken before drinking to mix up the natural fibres from the apples that settle to the bottom – a sign of good cider, Mike says.

"The one with the fibre is the good one for you."

"It's pasteurized. All you do is you take an apple, do this (he pretends to crush an apple in his hands) and what comes out is cider. No water, no sugar," he says.

"It's a pretty simple process. I drive it up there, they dump it into a wash bin. Then it goes up the conveyor and

gets pulverized, then it gets through the press," Sandra adds.

Everything on the farm is naturally grown. Mike says it's been 30 years or so since they've used fertilizer. Other than that, it's all just done with manure, which is another sustainable byproduct of their farm.

Cruising around in Mike's farm vehicle through his apple orchard, it's clear he loves what he does. A retired teacher, he now spends his time on the farm and knows pretty much all of his neighbours.

"I just gave a couple (of jugs of cider) to my neighbour. He's harvesting and he's got a big smile."



Jam Queen does it again, wins **two champion spots** at Royal Winter Fair

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Kim McQuhae — who has come to be known as the town's Jam Queen, has pulled in another champion victory at the Royal Winter Fair.

This year McQuhae and her business Gryphon Ridge Highlands won champion in the heritage jam category with her calico peach pineapple conserve. She also won a first place spot in the spirited jelly category for her peach bellini jelly.

She said the heritage jam recipe was found in a book of recipes handed down from her step-grandmother. During COVID-19 she had a chance to sift through them and decided to try one out, and it paid off.

She did well in other categories too, bringing in a 2nd, 3rd and 4th place in the refined sugar category, but with so many victories under her belt she only counts the first place wins now.

She said funny enough, her best selling flavours didn't perform as well as she'd hoped.

McQuhae said she has no idea how many championship wins she's had. "That would require some homework."

Newark Neighbours wants help to find a **new home** for the NOTL charity

Staff
The Lake Report

Newark Neighbours is moving to a new and larger home – the agency just doesn't know where it will be, yet.

And it's asking Niagara-on-the-Lake residents for help in finding that new location.

The food bank and thrift store has been serving NOTL for 50 years, but has grown too big for its premises at 310 John St. E., where it's been since 1992.

"Newark Neighbours has far outgrown its current space and is reaching out to key community members and stakeholders for ideas and suggestions on a poten-

tial new location and space," Cindy Grant, chair of the board of directors, said in announcing the plan.

The service has a requirement "wish list," which includes 2,000-plus square feet in space, ideally with ground floor access. Privacy for food clients is also a concern.

"Our volunteer teams are approaching this move with a touch of sadness, knowing that we will be leaving our home after so many years," said Grant, who also manages the food bank.

"We extend our heartfelt thanks to the management and staff at Riverbend Inn and Winery for their hospitality and support over the last

30-plus years," she added.

She also thanked Peller Estates management and staff for their help as the organization started planning its move.

"We are looking forward to working with them in the coming months as our planning progresses into 2022," Grant added.

Founders Peggy Anderson and Nikki Aiken started Newark Neighbours in 1971 and the organization was incorporated as a not-for-profit charity in 1972.

In the first few months of operation, there were 20 families on the client list and that same year, more than 100 families were helped during the Christmas season.

Residents offered their basements to be used as collection and clearing depots and citizens began raising money to help Anderson and Aiken find a permanent home.

The operation moved among several locations in the first few years, including the boiler room of a factory that is now the Pillar and Post Inn.

From 1980 to 1991, it was located at a home on the Niagara Parkway, now the Riverbend Inn & Vineyard, which was owned by Dr. Djamel Afrukteh.

The home was converted into a museum and a parcel of land on the property was offered to Newark Neigh-

bours if it could raise money for a building. With a long list of volunteers and local businesses, "The Barn" was built in late 1992, almost 30 years ago.

The agency continues to operate the only food bank in Niagara-on-the-Lake, supplying more than 60 families (117 individuals) with essential groceries twice a month and special holiday celebration hampers three times a year.

The generosity and support of residents, groups and organizations in Niagara-on-the-Lake allows Newark Neighbours to provide these supplies throughout the year, the agency noted.

The thrift store sells donat-

ed clothing and footwear for women, men and children, as well as jewelry, accessories, household items, small appliances, collectibles and more. The revenue from the thrift store supports the operations of the food bank.

In addition to these services, Newark Neighbours also has a bursary program for eligible graduating high school students who live in Niagara-on-the-Lake. It also regularly supports the Education Foundation of Niagara (EFN) Prom Project, Niagara College Dress for Success, and the Red Roof Retreat.

For more information, go to the agency's website, newarkneighbours.ca.

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Remembrance Day

FOUR-PAGE PULL-OUT SECTION

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Holding a poppy candle from Flanders Fields in Belgium, Sheila Hirsch-Kalm was among the hundreds who gathered around the clock tower cenotaph in Old Town Niagara-on-the-Lake last Thursday to pay respects to Canadian soldiers who gave their lives for the country's freedom.

Hirsch-Kalm, a longtime resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake, was there to show her support, as she is every year.

Her grandfather Donald Currie was a soldier with Scotland's Black Watch and was one of many whose body was never recovered from the battle site at Flanders.

"His name is on the Menin Gate. That's the gate in the local village, a huge, great big, like an Arc de Triomphe (in Paris). It has hundreds of thousands of names of those who were never found. They just disappeared into the mud," Hirsch-Kalm said.

Her father John Grubb was killed during the Second World War and was also a member of the Black Watch.

She brings the candle to the Niagara-on-the-Lake ceremony every year to pay her respects.

"I went to Flanders Fields for the services there, that they hold every night (year-round). There's a local village that their firemen have a band and they march up to the cenotaph every night and they play the 'Last Post.' Every night. It's quite a quite a moving thing."

She said Remembrance Day is "very" significant for her.

"I've gone to these (ceremonies) since I was a child in the U.K., in Scotland, and I was a junior Red Cross nurse — I wasn't old enough for anything else. And so I marched in the parades as a young girl in my Red Cross uniform," she said.

She's continued that tradition for her whole life.

"No matter what's happened, the weather or anything else, I've been here."

The weather for this year's Niagara-on-the-Lake ceremony was balmy, among the best it's ever been, she said.

Some years it's been snowing and windy, but Hirsch-Kalm said she's seen the crowd grow continually.

"Twenty years ago, there was just a handful of people, there really was — you could count them. And as time has gone on, which is great to see, there's a bigger recognition for that need to remember. And that's the thing — to remember."

Especially after enduring the COVID-19 pandemic, it's important "to realize how much we owe to others, whether it's from the war time or people who've been looking after us in the hospitals and everything. It's all got to do with people. And it was people who went off to war. It was people's sons and daughters."

She said she's glad to see people out recognizing those who fought.

"Compared to what I saw 22 years ago here, there's far more people recognizing it. And that's good."

The ceremony began with the Canadian flag being lowered to half-mast, while families laid wreaths around the base of the monument.

The flag was raised for the formal ceremony and then lowered again at 11 a.m. for the playing of the "Last Post" and then raised once more as other wreaths were laid by town organizations, including the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124.

At 1 p.m., a gathering was held at the Queenston cenotaph.

Veterans, cadets and residents paid their solemn respects to the mighty dead as about 40 people stood on a quiet corner of the Niagara Parkway.

The Queenston cenotaph is emblazoned with inscriptions of the various wars Niagara residents have fought and died in. From the Great War to the war in Korea, it stands as a reminder of the many who never made it home from the front lines.

At the top of the monument is the statue of a soldier, with rifle and bayonet. Under his feet, in the centre of a stone wreath, the words "Lest we Forget" remind of the sacrifice of many bearing his likeness.

The names of some of Niagara's fallen were read out. Walter Nisbet, Edwin Shepard and E. Winnet Thompson are just three of the roughly 60 men from the region who died during the First and Second World Wars.

Minister Sheldon Kofsky sought to remind people that Remembrance Day is no celebration, but a time of solemn mourning.

"Let us not glorify conflict," he said. "But remember those who have been lost because of it."

— With files from Evan Saunders



Ceremonies were held at both the Old Town and Queenston cenotaphs on Nov. 11. JANICE WHITE AND EVAN SAUNDERS PHOTOS

REMEMBRANCE DAY



NOTL Remembers



Top: a panoramic view of the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Old Town cenotaph. Left: Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 124 president Victor Packard reads the names of fallen soldiers. Middle top: People place their poppies on the cenotaph. Middle bottom: Some of the flags of the nations who participated in the Great War. Right top: A cadet stands watch at the Queenston cenotaph. Right bottom: Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 124's flag during a moment of silence. JANICE WHITE/RICHARD HARLEY/EVAN SAUNDERS

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REMEMBRANCE DAY



Left: A cadet speaks during the Remembrance Day ceremony in Old Town. Right: NOTL Sparks commemorate Remembrance Day at the cenotaph clock tower. JANICE WHITE/SUPPLIED

RIDDLE ME THIS

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



Legion members salute the Queenston Cenotaph after laying wreaths. EVAN SAUNDERS

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REMEMBRANCE DAY



NOTL elementary schools celebrated Remembrance Day, too. On top is a photo from students at Crossroads Public School, of poppies in hands. Top right are students from Royal Oak Academy viewing the NOTL Museum's poppy display. Bottom right is another display from Crossroads students. The three students pictured above are from St. Michael Catholic school. They were honoured by the Legion their Remembrance essays and posters. SUPPLIED



NOTL schools remember Nov. 11 – *virtually*

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's elementary schools commemorated Remembrance Day last week with virtual ceremonies.

At Crossroads Public School, "We had a traditional but virtual assembly with the whole school as well

as about 20 families from our school community that chose to join us. Jamie Lunn from the War Amps spoke, and our Grade 8 students presented 'Brave Soldats,'" said principal Kate Fish.

Lunn, the public awareness officer for War Amps, was born missing her lower right arm. Her message to the students

was about the importance of Nov. 11 and why Canadians need to be thankful.

She also spoke about her life without having use of her right arm, how War Amps supported her family when she was a child and how they still help her today.

The school also was adorned with poppy-

inspired artwork created by students of all ages.

St. Michael Catholic school's Nov. 11 presentation was created by teacher Kristin Lingerfelt and the Grade 5-6 class.

"In addition to a liturgy, the class performed a variety of tableaux outside depicting both war and activities we enjoy in peace," said

principal Janice Barretto-Mendonca.

The presentation included pictures families sent in of those who served in previous conflicts and those who continue to serve "so it was very personalized to our school community," she said.

Students also wrote essays, poems and created posters of remembrance.

A number of students also received awards from the Legion for the poster and essay submissions last year.

At Royal Oak Community School in Old Town, students visited the NOTL Museum's magnificent outdoor poppy display, while some in the early years class created artwork to commemorate Remembrance Day.

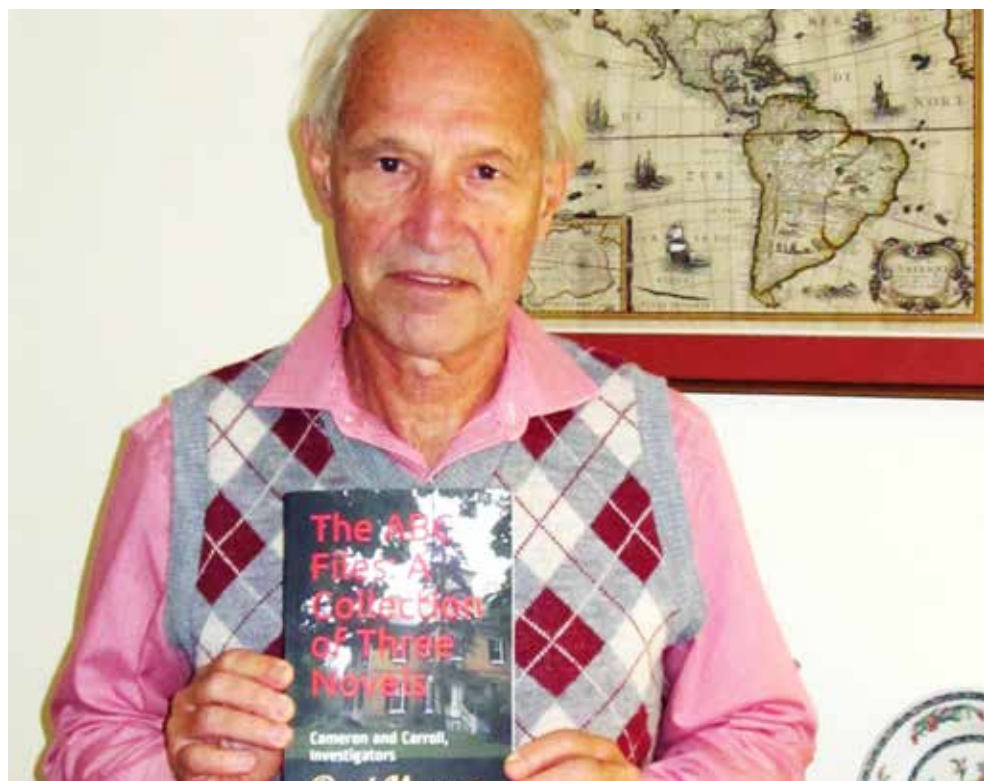
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The
Lake Report

NOTL writer's detective trilogy debuts

Paul Masson
Special to The Lake Report



NOTL's Paul Masson has published three new books of detective fiction in one volume, "The ABC Files." SUPPLIED

I recently published a collection of three detective novels, "The ABC Files," which have as protagonists a retired judge, Hamish Cameron, and his assistant Sean Carroll, who live in a picturesque seaside town in Nova Scotia.

It is available in paperback on Amazon, and will be on sale at a NOTL Writers' Circle Book Fair in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Dec. 4.

I am hosting this "Books at the Barn" event in front of my red barn at 322 Simcoe St., where I and a number of other area authors will have our books on display.

People ask how I got started writing detective fiction. My job as an economist led me to publish a number of scholarly articles and several books. After I retired, I looked for a way to continue writing and I decided to try penning mystery novels.

Writing fiction posed different challenges from the type of analytical and descriptive writing that I was used to, but I welcomed the opportunity to learn something new. I first took a series of creative writing courses on Coursera where the subjects included: how to craft plot, characters, scene and style, with a final module on how to get published.

The courses were intended to be taken sequentially, but I mistakenly registered for the first four courses simultaneously, so I had to do four writing assignments a week rather than one. It was fun getting up in the morning and dashing off another story, and I learned a lot.

I've always enjoyed reading detective fiction, and as a teenager I read all I could find by Agatha Christie, Erle Stanley Gardner, Georges Simenon and many other writers.

Detective novels have a structure. They usually involve a crime or mystery to be solved by the protagonist, and hopefully, by the reader. Authors typically use the same protagonist in a series of novels, so their books contain familiar characters

like Hercule Poirot, Perry Mason or Inspecteur Maigret. And many novelists exploit the contrast between idyllic surroundings and a horrible crime. Writers of English village mysteries are masters of this.

I decided to try my hand at the genre. The two most important choices I had to make were: Where to set the stories? Who should be my protagonist? I decided my detective would be someone older, a retired person like myself. I felt there were issues relating to seniors that were not given the attention they deserved. But I made my detective a retired judge, not a retired economist. I didn't want him to be too close to me.

As for the location, I wanted my stories to be set in a small town in Canada which was not too obviously patterned after Niagara-on-the-Lake. I chose to create a fictional town called Ashcroft-by-the-Sea on Nova Scotia's Atlantic coast, south of Halifax. Being on a body of water is an important ingredient of some of my stories. I am a member of the NOTL Sailing Club, which shares some features with the fictional Ashcroft Yacht Club.

The first novel in "The ABC Files," entitled "Hamish Cameron Investigates," begins with my hero in an upscale retire-

ment home, New Dawn, located on the outskirts of Ashcroft. When one of his friends dies, as does a nurse employed there, Hamish is suspicious. He enlists a volunteer at the home, Sean Carroll, to help him investigate what is going on, and what they discover puts them in danger. Later, Hamish gets involved in a conflict over development in Ashcroft, and is hired to investigate sabotage at the yacht club.

I am indebted to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Writers' Circle, which groups together around two dozen writers who live in our little town. Writers can submit partial drafts of novels, poems or short stories and receive comments of the other writers. They are unfailingly kind in their criticism and constructive in their suggestions. I profited much from their input and encouragement, as well as those of my wife, Betsy, who is a writer in her own right – specializing in local history.

The extra time on my hands from the pandemic led me to start a second novel on the heels of the first one. Volume 2 of "The ABC Files," entitled "A Chorus of Evil," is the account of Hamish and Sean's investigation of two cases of child abduction.

They are hired initially by a woman who gave her daughter up for adoption

almost 20 years before. In the course of their investigation, there is an abduction of a teenage girl living in the same neighbourhood. What else do they have in common? The answer leads our detectives in a surprising direction.

My interest in sailing, and my sailing excursions in the Bahamas, were the inspiration for my third novel, "Evil Through the Spyglass." In this book, a school principal hires Hamish to find the source of drugs plaguing his school. The trail leads to an "outward-bound" sailing ship for at-risk teens. Sean and Hamish run into unexpected danger in their search for the master criminal.

Though I chose not to publish the individual novels in print form, but rather as ebooks, I thought that the three of them together would make a nice sized book.

Hence, in July, I brought out the collection as a paperback on Amazon. It will also be on sale for \$15 at the NOTL Writers' Circle Book Fair on Dec. 4, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 322 Simcoe St. in Old Town.

I look forward to chatting with interested readers and, if they so desire, signing my book for them. Information about all the Writers' Circle authors participating in the book fair and their books will follow in another article.

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Must live or work in NOTL to join. Cost of membership is \$20 per player and includes an end of year banquet and awards.

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Contact Geoff at 289-213-9308 or our **Niagara-on-the-Lake Dart League Facebook page.**

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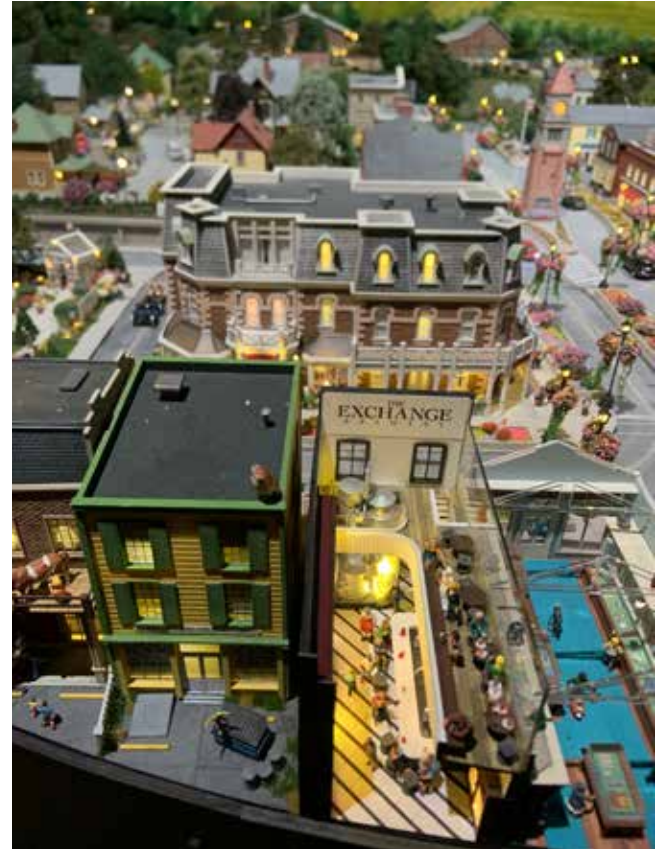
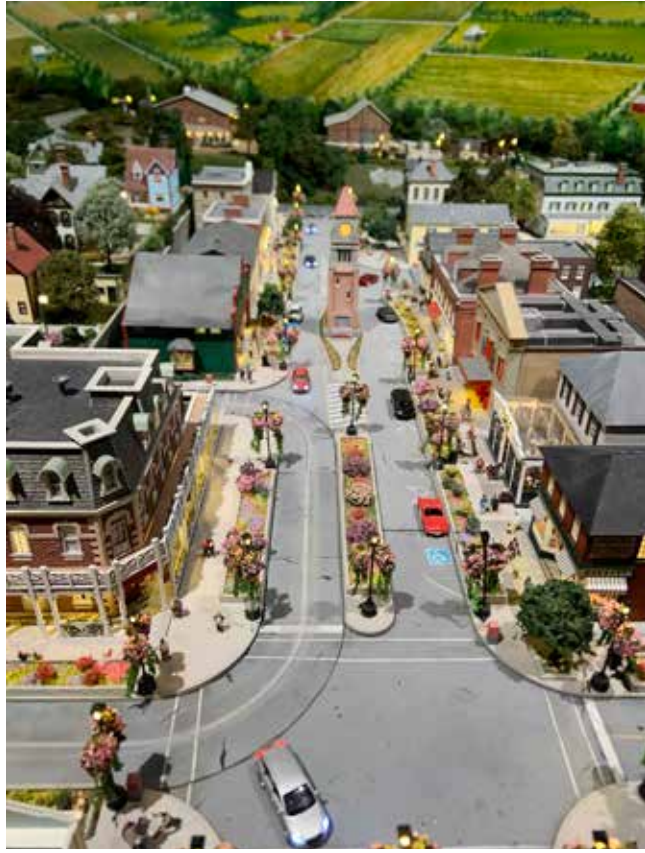
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Photos show part of the Niagara-on-the-Lake section of Little Niagara. While not exactly to scale, many NOTL buildings are made with intricate detail. SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Little you can be a part of Little NOTL, too

Continued from Front Page

“I walked in at nine in the morning when it first opened, and I left at seven in the evening when they closed and I said to myself, ‘This is what I want to do.’”

About 10 years ago, when Brenninkmeijer was looking for a change in career, he set in to build the largest miniature model of Canada to share some of the information he’d learned about Canada over the years.

So why does Niagara-on-the-Lake play such a large role in the exhibit’s Little Niagara section? Largely because NOTL reminds him of Europe.

“When I went to Quebec City or when I go down to Niagara-on-the-Lake, I just feel like I’m back in Europe. That’s really the main reason. I think the other reason is I took the team. We spent a whole day in Niagara, we split up into two teams. And half of us did upper Niagara and the other did lower Niagara — that’s kind of how we called it — and I was fortunate enough to be in the Niagara-on-the-Lake part, and had the most fun talking about ‘OK, we should include this, include that.’”

Brenninkmeijer said

while he does love building models, he leaves that work to his team that helps build the miniature models based on photographs. They originally started using modified kits, but now customize everything with the help of 3D printers and laser engravers.

“We’ve got a graduate architect on our team who would modify the kits, because most of them are U.S. or European, and then we would change them to reflect the architecture here. And some of those kits we could use for Quebec City, some of them we could use for the Niagara-on-the-Lake,” he said.

“When they first started that’s how they worked. Now they make everything from scratch, so they design it on the computer, the computer then transfers the file to the laser cut engraver and the 3D printer and prints out and cuts the various pieces that are needed to put together the structure. And then they paint it and they weather it and they put interiors in it. And they do that 100 times better job that I would be able to do.”

The first step, he said, is choosing what landmarks to include.

“Although we’ve got 50,000 square feet, we don’t

have enough space to show everything. So we have to pick and choose. And this is where the graduate architect comes in,” he said.

The Little Niagara portion, he said, goes from Old Town Niagara-on-the-Lake, up to Queenston Heights and then into Niagara Falls.

Then from there it gets discussed what should go into the smaller “blocks” of the exhibit.

For Niagara-on-the-Lake, he said his team consulted the NOTL Chamber of Commerce and visited several stores to decide what needed to be included, such as Greaves, the Shaw Festival, the clock tower cenotaph and the Prince of Wales.

Some of the buildings are also cut open so guests can look inside, such as the Royal George Theatre and the Niagara Apothecary.

He said the models aren’t designed “right to the last detail,” but it gives a sense and a feel for the town.

“People have told us, ‘Oh, that looks exactly like what it is when you walk down Niagara-on-the-Lake.’”

The Niagara-on-the-Lake portion is structured around the downtown core of the historic Old Town, near the iconic clock tower cenotaph.

The whole Little Canada

attraction is a two-hour experience that offers scenery, soundscapes, animated features and moving cars, trains and boats that all operate on a 15-minute day cycle. At sunset, thousands of tiny lights illuminate the display.

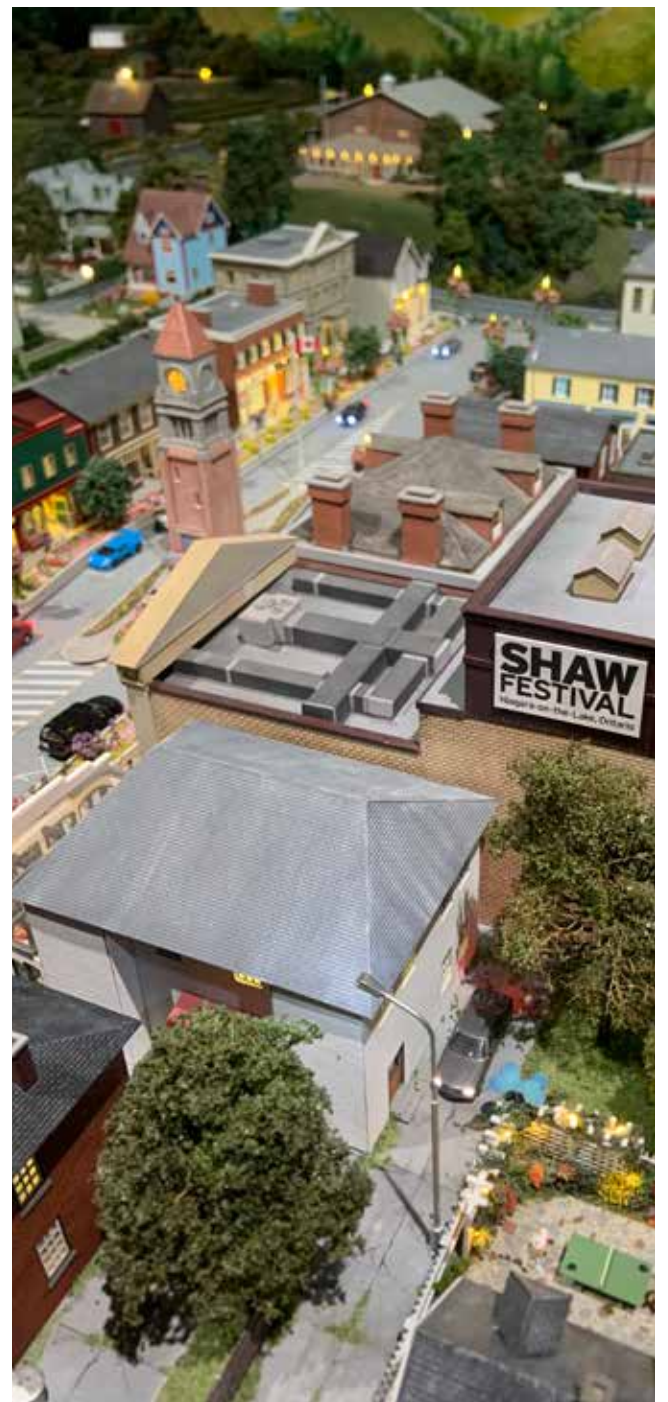
The attraction is open to the public at 10 Dundas St. E. across from Yonge-Dundas Square. Tickets to the attraction come with a visitor guide and scavenger hunt, challenging guests to pay attention to the intricate details of the displays.

Guests can visit five Canadian destinations including Little Niagara, Little Toronto, Little Golden Horseshoe, Little Ottawa and Petit Québec. A sixth destination, Little North, is under construction.

Visitors also can become part of the exhibit by stepping inside the “Littization Station” and striking a pose, where 128 cameras take a 360-degree instantaneous photo to create a 3D three-quarter-inch model of them. Guests then choose from a list of locations in the little destinations where their Little Me can be placed.

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Left: MNP partners, staff and volunteers at a greenhouse build in Lincoln. From left: Alvin Klassen, Travis Dolinski, Pam Lilley, Liz Klassen, Yolanda Cui & Hasmita Arora. Right: MNP's Travis Dolinski and Hasmita Arora putting the finishing touches on a garden bed for interior of greenhouse. SUPPLIED PHOTOS

MNP supports local with commitment to United Way

Submitted Sponsored

Respect, Integrity, Community and Fun. These are not just words at MNP, they are just a few of the company's core values and they are backed by actions.

MNP is a leading national accounting, tax and business consulting firm, with offices in St. Catharines and Niagara, and is home to some of the community's most innovative leaders.

And MNP stands by its values and culture by supporting the communities in which it operates. Early in 2021, partners at MNP

put their heads together to come up with one way they could support the local community. It was decided that they would make a transformational commitment to fighting poverty in Niagara, a problem that has only gotten worse in the last two years.

Bill Sloper, regional managing partner at MNP, speaks for his whole team when he says they are proud to partner with the United Way to sponsor the \$25,000 "New Donor Match," a partnership that provides double the impact to the community for each donation made. "MNP is committed to

being part of and supporting the communities where we live and work," said Sloper. "Partnering with the United Way, an organization that understands the challenges Niagara residents are facing, allows us to give back and increase the impact that we have in our communities."

Poverty has long been an issue in Niagara but has been amplified since the start of the pandemic. The most recent statistics show that 1 in 7 people were living in poverty prior to COVID-19. The pandemic has only exacerbated the disparity between high- and

low-income families, leaving lower-income earners staggering behind. Government benefits certainly helped many families, but as they dry up, it is only a matter of time before front-line agencies start to see the real impact on the most vulnerable members of our community.

United Way's investments meet issues head-on, funding vital programs and services that address the root cause of poverty. Last year, a network of 130 programs were funded that support people living in poverty, right here in Niagara.

"Our team members have

supported United Way Niagara individually for a number of years – the New Donor Match has allowed us to come together to support this campaign in a more impactful way and directly make a difference to the lives of people in the Greater Niagara Region," says Sloper.

MNP has built a strong foundation of supporting local agencies through the United Way and this year was no different. On top of their monetary contributions, partners and staff also donated their time to help food security projects in the community. Support-

ing community gardens and social hubs through the addition of greenhouses will allow local growers to have longer planting seasons, expand plant variety and help increase community connection and food security for those in need.

If you want to become a part of the change in your community, supporting United Way Niagara is just one way you can help a vital network of local agencies and services that combat poverty right here in the region. Learn more on our website at www.unitedway-niagara.org and donate today.



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Young **NOTL** singers chosen for musical production

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Two Niagara-on-the-Lake singers are headed to “Broadway” on Nov. 26.

Aoibhin Davidson, 12, and Violet Folino, 9, train under Queenston’s Lisa Brillon and the two were selected to perform in “Broadway Dreams,” a virtual revue show, featuring young artists singing the songs of their Broadway dream roles.

They auditioned in September and were chosen to be among the 10 young artists in the ensemble, with other singers ages nine to 18 coming from as far as Saskatchewan and Hong Kong.

Aoibhin and Violet have been singing together for five years now and taking part in competitions, said Aoibhin’s mom Lara Davidson. But this extra surprise is a nice way to get back to performing for an audience.

“We were told about a musical that was virtual. We’re like, ‘How cool is that?’ So the girls auditioned. And they both got parts,” said Violet’s mom Rosie.



Aoibhin Davidson and Violet Folino are excited to perform in a virtual musical Nov. 26 to 28. RICHARD HARLEY

The girls were told to pick their “dream roles” and songs from musicals they love – and then sing those songs as part of the show.

Violet picked Cosette from “Les Miserables,” “Mary Poppins,” “Matilda” and “Anne of Green Gables.” Aoibhin also loves “Matilda,” as well as “Hello, Dolly!” and “Who Will Buy?” from “Oliver!”

“It’s a bit of everything,” Davidson says.

“There’s about 20 songs and she shortens them. And then some will have a solo, some will do duets, and they’ll have both of them up on the screen,” Folino says.

“It will be like a mix. It’ll

be like, you know, those radio songs where they like fuse the songs together? That’s what it’s gonna be like,” Aoibhin says.

The girls are both excited to take part. They’ve been busy in cast rehearsals and will have to film their videos from home and submit them. They also get to dress up in costumes for the show.

Aoibhin jokes that it’s sort of “like a business Zoom meeting.”

“We don’t need to wear any fancy pants,” she said. “They won’t see your bottom half.”

When she first found out she got picked, “I was like,

hallelujah, I can pick my easy songs!”

Aoibhin said one challenge has been that some of her songs are from the 1960s.

“I love older songs for some reason,” she said. “The new songs are OK, but the old ones? Yes. I will rather be born in that year and listen to that all my life.”

“I would pick ‘Frozen’ but the problem is though, mom would start dancing and singing it and I do not want to see her singing,” Aoibhin jokes.

Violet picked a mix of classics and oldies. And while she’s excited to

perform in the production, she also is itching to get back to performing for a live audience.

“I miss performing in front of actual people, instead of just people on a screen,” she said.

Violet and Aoibhin have different outlooks on that.

Aoibhin said it’s more nerve-wracking performing for a crowd of people.

But for Violet, “the more people the better,” her mom says. They’ve missed the energy of hearing the audience clap when they’re finished.

However, Violet was happy to know she could at least perform for actual people, even if it’s virtual, and to meet other singers.

“I just wanted to perform,” she said.

“You can only practice so much,” her mom added.

The two girls haven’t performed live since just before the lockdowns began in March 2020.

However, they’ve kept up with online lessons with Brillon.

Violet says some of the challenges with virtual performing is also technology.

“Since we live out in the

country, our internet’s not the best,” she said.

Davidson said even in Garrison Village they’ve had their web connection freeze on them.

“It’s a weird thing we have — we love doing spin the wheel with the internet, we’re like, ‘You’re gonna work? You’re gonna medium-work? You’re gonna lose power?’ Like, OK, spin the wheel,” Aoibhin joked.

Both moms were excited for their daughters getting parts in the show.

“Little did we know what it would mean — because it means we have to take videos of their songs. So not only are they doing ensembles, they’re doing duets and solos. So it’s quite a bit of music for the girls to learn.”

The musical is being produced by Marion Abbott, who is also a singing teacher and adjudicator in the Toronto area.

The show will be available online to view Nov. 26 to 28. Tickets are \$10 and available at marionabbott.com. Once purchased the show can be viewed as many times as the audience wants.

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Kandis and Kathy Klipich were selling wares in honour of Kathy's recently deceased mother Gladys Davidson, a longtime Lioness and market vendor herself. EVAN SAUNDERS

Family traditions at the Lioness market

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The St. Davids Lioness market was a return to normal for NOTL vendors and presented a way for Kandis Klipich to carry on a family tradition in honour of her recently deceased grandmother.

"This is kind of in memory of her because she taught me how to sew," Klipich said at the market on Saturday.

Her grandmother, Gladys Davidson, and her grandfather were longtime members of the St. Davids Lions Club.

Gladys was a very active member of the Lions community and participated in many of the markets herself, selling baked goods, Klipich said.

Participating in the market thus had the dual meaning of allowing her to connect with her grandmother through their mutual sewing abilities and by standing in the very place and fulfilling the very role Gladys had for years, she said.

Though Gladys taught her to sew when she was a child, Klipich said she

hadn't necessarily been keeping up with it over the years.

"Really, what kind of started it off again was I had to get surgery on my legs so I was off for a couple of weeks. I needed to do something or else I might have gone crazy," she said.

"So I thought of my grandmother and started (sewing again) and here we are."

Together with her mother Kathy Klipich, they had a table set up among some 15 other vendors inside the St. Davids Lions Club on Saturday.

She was selling hand-knitted hair scrunchies and pet bandanas.

Though the pet bandana industry may seem built around canines, Klipich said her sales experience has taught her otherwise. "People buy them for their rabbits, their cats — it's not just for dogs," she said.

Klipich's mother was selling homemade cards for any number of special occasions.

Thanks to her parents' involvement in the club, Kathy Klipich said she and her daughter had been

volunteering with the Lions for years but were happy to take a place in the market this year.

There were tables of custom charcuterie boards and cutting boards, baked goods, hand-knitted stuffed animals and polished gemstones, among others.

Dianne Pever led the organizing initiative to hold the market. She said she hoped the market's return signalled the return of regular fundraising projects for the Lions Club.

"It's just trying to get back into it. There are so many organizations that need funding so desperately and to be able to start (raising money) again, it's like, phew, wow. It's a relief," she said.

The larger business community was crucial to making the market a success, Pever said.

Before the pandemic hit and cancelled the previous year's market, the Lions Club had received a myriad of gift certificates from Niagara businesses for the market's draw.

Pever was worried the gift certificates wouldn't be honoured since it had been almost two years since

some were donated.

"But we called everybody and they said, 'Yep, go right ahead,'" she said.

Some of the participating businesses were Corks Wine Bar and Eatery, Casa Mia, Sentineal Carriages and National Helicopters.

Pever said the club hopes to have another Lioness market in May to one-up the November market.

"We want to have tents and have music outside. Go bigger and go crazy," she said with a laugh.

Area MPP Wayne Gates was at the market investigating the stuffed animal wares.

"I'll probably get the Toronto Maple Leafs teddy bear, unless they have a Buffalo Sabres one," Gates said.

Gates is recovering from a serious motor vehicle collision that occurred a few weeks ago.

"A couple more weeks and I'll be fine," Gates said. He said his ribs are still hurting but that didn't matter much considering he "could have been dead."

Gates ended up walking away with the Maple Leafs teddy bear, hand-made by Jessie Shackmann.



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Christmas arrives early at Grace United Church

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

If you were down at the Grace United Church “Christmas Extravaganza” this past Saturday, you surely felt that the Christmas season was upon Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Behind a little blue door at the back of the church, “Jingle Bell Rock” was blasting and reasonably priced gift bags and immaculate jams were lined up row by row.

“There’s so many good things. I wish I got here earlier but I had company so I didn’t get the chance,” market-goer Emily Hyde said.

“It’s such a great event, I’ll definitely be here next week.”

The popular annual Christmas Market is being held over two weekends this year due to pandemic capacity restrictions. This Saturday, Nov. 20, the market will include Christmas baking, tourtieres, toys, vintage items, antique china and more.

One of the focuses for the event this year was ensur-



Emily Hyde and other market-goers peruse the contents of the gift bags for sale at Grace United Church this past Saturday. EVAN SAUNDERS

ing that items were not too expensive, organizer Carol Gorman said.

“We’re coming out of a pandemic. People don’t have a lot of money. We wanted to make sure everybody could afford to come out today,” she said.

The gift bags were indeed moderately priced, ranging from \$5 to \$15, depending on what was inside. Some had mugs, coffee and chocolate, while another had a Will Smith movie, some notebooks and glassware.

“Everything was donated by people from the church,” Gorman said.

Volunteers spent weeks putting all the disparate items donated into thematic gift packages.

“We grouped things that were kind of similar to each other. Like if there was a cat thing, we’d do all the cat stuff— a cat candle with a cat ceramic mug,” volunteer Gail Data said.

Data was one of several volunteers who got together for nearly four weeks to put all the gift packages together, Gorman said.

“I’m the only one that belongs to the church. The rest were my tribe, my soul sisters so to speak,” Gorman said.

Against the back wall was a veritable what’s what of homemade jams courtesy of Heinz Probst and David Greaves.

“I’m just enjoying all the colours,” Silk Chauncey said as she and her daughter Soleil perused the vibrant jam display.

There was gooseberry, raspberry, apricot almond and peach nectarine – and that is barely scratching the surface.

Probst said gooseberry jam is his favourite.

“I have my eye on the lemon curd,” Chauncey said.

Concert kicks off countdown to Canada Summer Games

Staff
The Lake Report

Canadian music stars Tim Hicks, Loverboy, Poesy and Jeremie Albino will headline a concert Jan. 20 to kick off the countdown to the 2022 Canada Summer Games in Niagara.

Tickets are now available for the 200-day-out celebration, called “Rise with Glowing Hearts,” which will hit the stage at the Meridian Centre.

“I am over-the-moon excited and honoured to be headlining this show right in my hometown of St. Catharines, Ontario,” said Hicks, a four-time Juno Award nominee.

“I can’t wait to hit the stage at the Meridian Centre and celebrate the Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games.”

Doug Hamilton, chair of the Niagara 2022 Host Society, said, “Embodying words from our national anthem, Rise with Glowing Hearts encourages us all to come together in celebration as we continue to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and look ahead



Tim Hicks. SUPPLIED

to next year’s 2022 Canada Summer Games.”

Organizers also announced the release of “Steel Heart,” the anthem for the games. The song was written, produced and recorded by Poesy.

In total, more than 5,000 participants and close to 4,500 volunteers are expected to take part in the Niagara games, scheduled for Aug. 6 to 21.

The organizing committee is accepting applications now for volunteer positions. Find out more at niagara2022games.ca/get-involved/volunteering



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His aim is true: Dart player reps Team Canada

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Trey House didn't think he would be representing Canada on the international stage when he threw his first dart at eight years old.

"It's like, that jump in six years — I didn't expect to go this far," Trey, now 14, said in an interview.

On Thursday, Trey and his mother will board a plane to Gibraltar so he can play on Team Canada for the Junior Darts Corporation's World Darts Championship.

"It's a lot to take in. Starting off it's like, 'Oh, this is gonna be a hobby,' too, maybe making it a whole career," he said. A few emotions that arise when thinking about the tournament, the teen said.

"I'm feeling really pumped. A little nervous because I've never played any of these people from all these other countries before," he said.

He said he's played kids from England and Northern Ireland at past tournaments.

"They put up a good fight. I beat the kid from England but I lost to the kid from



Trey House, 14, has been shooting darts since he was 8. He never expected to be on the path to making it his career, he said. SUPPLIED

Northern Ireland," said Trey.

His journey to Team Canada began a few months ago when he went to a Championship Darts Corporation shoot "for the experience."

He ended up winning two of the three games he played. That not only got him invited to be on Team

Canada, he's also team captain.

Trey said he has two ways of warming up before a big game.

"Depending on how many people and how much noise they're gonna make I'll put my headphones in and crank my music as loud as I can," he said.

"If it's more quiet and

everyone has to be quiet I'll just go to a board and start throwing my normal warm-up."

Darts is a House family tradition. Trey's dad, Matt House, is a longtime member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Dart League.

In response to comments that his dad is quite the player, Trey said, "Yeah, he can be, depending on the night."

Joking aside, he said his dad is pumped to see his son excelling at the sport.

Besides playing darts, the St. Catharines youth plays guitar and listens to punk music and rock and roll.

Amid all the tumult of representing Canada and travelling overseas, Trey's focus is as sharp as his aim.

"I'm having fun and I'm hoping to bring home some gold," he said.

Players have to fund travel expenses themselves for the tournament. Anyone who wishes to support Trey and Team Canada can donate at <https://gofund.me/0e6bf5c9>.

The tournament, which starts on Monday, Nov. 22, can be followed through dartconnect.com.



Niagara beat Plattsville 4-2 Friday night. KEVAN DOWD

Full bench helps Predators to two weekend victories

Kevan Dowd, Special to The Lake Report

After a week without playing, the Niagara Predators were back at it this weekend and making up for lost time, playing three games straight and picking up two Ws in the process.

The Predators first returned to the ice Friday night at the Meridian Credit Union Arena, beating the Plattsville Lakers 4-2, followed by a home-and-home series against the Northumberland Stars.

Niagara lost their Saturday road game 3-1 but secured a 6-0 victory in Virgil the next day. Niagara now sits in third place in the Greater Metro Jr. A Hockey southern division.

Friday night saw the Predators start with a 3-0 lead over Plattsville after the first period with two goals for Emil Eriksson and a third off a penalty shot by Alexander Insulander. The Lakers bagged their first point of the night 6:38 into the second period, with Jesper Eriksson netting the Predators fourth goal less than two minutes later. Plattsville fought hard through the third but still fell two goals short.

Read our full story at niagaranow.com/news.phtml/6595.

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Pumphouse's annual art sale returns Dec. 2-4

Staff
The Lake Report

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is gearing up for its art sale Dec. 2 to 4, which will feature more than 300 works — from oils, acrylics, watercolours, and mixed media pieces — all donated by artists, estates, patrons and members.

“We couldn’t do it without our generous donors and dedicated volunteers,” said Pumphouse director Rima Boles.

“The support from the community has been overwhelming.”

Volunteers not only helped drive the call for artwork donations but were also involved in collecting, moving, valuation and inventory of all the pieces for sale, she said.



The Niagara Pumphouse. FILE

The sale is the Pumphouse’s first major, in-person fundraiser in more than a year.

In time for the holidays, it’s an opportunity to purchase original artworks for your home or as gifts, while at the same time supporting children and youth programs, Boles said.

“Art plays an important

role in a child’s development. Our children and youth programs allow exploration and creative-thinking through various art activities,” she said,

“Due to the pandemic, we had to reinvent the way we deliver these programs. Proceeds from the art sale will help sustain the delivery of various art courses for

young aspiring artists that we run throughout the year, including Healing Arts for Kids and Family-Friendly Art Studio.”

As with previous years, the NOTL landmark will be one of the sites participating in the annual Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Holiday House Tour. The centre will be professionally decorated by the designers from the Charming House.

“After seeing the beautifully decorated homes and spaces, we hope the viewing public will be inspired to deck their halls for the holidays. The art sale offers a wide range of artworks that are ready to be enjoyed,” says Boles.

The sale runs from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.. COVID-19 protocols will be in place to ensure safe and worry-free shopping.



A magical visit

Staff and customers at the Angel Inn had a special visitor Nov. 9, when Rupert Grint stopped by. Grint is most famously known for his role as Ron Weasley in the Harry Potter films. SUPPLIED



‘We Are Making a New World’

Penny-Lynn Cookson
Special to The Lake Report

What do the words “spirit of place” mean to us?

Do we think of a home left long ago or a new place where we instantly feel we belong? Perhaps it’s a place of shallow frivolity or conversely, a mysterious place that entices or even demands that we probe what lies beneath the surface?

This idea of place, this location, be it physical or psychological and this idea of spirit, be it subjective or emotional, lies beneath the work of Paul Nash, one of the most significant artists of the first half of the 20th century.

Nash was born in London in 1889 and died in 1946 in Boscombe, Dorset. He was a Surrealist painter, war artist, photographer, writer, wood engraver and designer of applied art.

He was key to the development of Modernism in English art. His passion for nature and landscape gave his earlier works a romantic mystical quality that would change with his later symbolic landscapes of the

shattered battlefields of the two world wars. Neither he nor his art would be the same after the trenches.

Nash studied briefly at the Slade School of Art in London. In 1914, he enlisted for Home Service with the Artists’ Rifles. He married the Oxford-educated suffragette, Margaret Odeh, and in 1916 was called up for officer training and sent to the Western Front.

The night of May 25, 1917, 2nd Lt. Nash of the Hampshire Regiment, based on the Ypres Salient in Belgium, fell into a trench, broke a rib and was sent back to London. A few days later, most of his unit were killed in a surprise assault on their position, Hill 60.

In six months, Nash returned to Ypres as an official war artist. The landscape, which in the spring had shown signs of recovery, was now destroyed by constant shellfire, heavy bombardment and relentless rain.

In despair and anger, Nash wrote to his wife, “It is unspeakable, godless, hopeless. I am no longer an artist interested and curi-



Left: Paul Nash, “We Are Making a New World,” 1918, Oil on canvas, Imperial War Museum, London. Right: Paul Nash, “Totes Meer” (Dead Sea), Oil on canvas, 1940-41, Tate Britain, London. SUPPLIED PHOTOS

ous. I am a messenger who will bring back word from the men who are fighting to those who want the war to go on forever. Feeble, inarticulate, will be my message, but it will have a bitter truth, and may it burn their lousy souls.”

Nash did “50 drawings of muddy places,” which were worked into some of the most famous paintings of the war, “We Are Making a New World,” “The Ypres Salient at Night” and “The Menin Road,” all exhibited to critical acclaim at “The Void of War” exhibition in London in 1918.

In these works, the composition does not move forward to the viewers, we are drawn in, pulled in, to contemplate and witness. In “We are Making a New

World,” what new world? It’s a mockery.

This is a nightmarish world of the death of nature with forlorn dismembered trees equivalent to human carnage, convulsed land and craters faintly illuminated by a cold white sun, devoid of warmth. And, although we do not see the bodies, we know they are there. And we know the craters are also the result of digging tunnels beneath the enemy in order to blow them to kingdom come.

By 1921, Nash was mentally and physically exhausted, suffering what we now casually refer to as PTSD. He kept working and in 1933 co-founded with fellow artists Henry Moore, Stanley Spencer, Ben Nicholson, Barbara Hepworth and critic Herbert Read,

the short-lived modern art movement, Unit One, with a goal to achieve “the expression of a truly contemporary spirit.”

With the outbreak of the Second World War, suffering from asthma and too ill to fight, Nash served again as a war artist attached to the Royal Air Force and the air ministry.

He created “The Battle of Britain 1941” representing the aerial battle of the young RAF fighter pilots against the oncoming ranks of Luftwaffe bombers over the Thames Estuary and the English Channel.

His masterwork, “Totes Meer” (Dead Sea), is a war-torn landscape of mangled machine parts of shot down German planes hauled to the Cowley dump near Oxford.

Symbols of the Luftwaffe appear in the turbulent jumble of wings and wheels that seem to wash and subside like waves bearing the dreams of war, the lure of adventure and the joy and freedom of flight for pilots too young to die. A white owl, symbolic of the spirit in flight, lifts and flies away to the horizon.

Nash died in his sleep of heart failure on July 11, 1946. He was 57.

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



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EXPLORING PHOTOS WITH NOTL MUSEUM



The apothecary

In the late 1860s Henry Paffard moved his apothecary business into the newly renovated building at the corner of King Street. He was the first of a series of druggist-owners including John De Witt Randall, A.J. Coyne and E.W. Field. Field retired in 1964, which is sometime after this photo was taken. The building, restored mainly through the efforts of our local Niagara Foundation, reopened in 1971 as a museum dedicated to the history of pharmacology. It is operated and maintained by the Ontario College of Pharmacists. One of our online lectures discussed the findings of the archeological dig that occurred here in recent years. Readers can find a link to it through our YouTube page. Photos, such as this one, are featured in our current exhibition, "Photographic Memory," which displays images of our community from 1945 to 1985, along with related memorabilia. Make sure to pop in and see the comparisons of then and now. My, my, how we've changed!

ARCHITEXT

The question of preservation

Brian Marshall
Columnist



Brian Marshall.

I freely admit to having a passion for collecting thoughts, ideas and concepts expressed in the written word. I delight in reading and periodically rereading particularly insightful books and articles contained within a collection gathered over the past 50 years.

This past weekend I spent a few hours in my digitized archive of old journal articles gathered in a folder I'd named "Limits to Heritage Preservation," rereading a series of academic opinions around the issue of what criteria a city or town should apply to determine whether a building should or should not be saved.

The consensus position among these authors was that simply because

a building is old does not constitute a good acid test for preservation. The author of one of these articles suggested that if such were the case, 50 years in the future, every surviving unaltered Walmart store would be considered a treasured heritage building.

Now, while none of these authors discounted age as a factor in the preservation equation, every one of them were of the opinion that it was only one consideration.

Another one of these considerations could best be termed as "significance." In other words, does the building speak to our shared historical experience

in a fashion that illustrates the time, place and social context prevalent when it was constructed? Further, is that illustration sufficiently unique and demonstrative?

And, even if a building meets these criteria, is its particular illustration worthy of preservation?

To use an extreme example, I doubt we could find a single proponent who might suggest any one of the "Indian" residential schools as a potential candidate for preservation. That said, scattered across Niagara-on-the-Lake are surviving examples of the "Help Houses" (see my June 23, 2021, column) which, despite their modest form, are absolutely "worthy" as a positive reflection of the socio-political-economic platform that allowed the town to survive through most of the 20th century.

Then we have the "association" consideration, referring to an established connection between the building and one (or more) individual(s) who participated in a historical event(s)

or had a lasting influence on the society in which they lived. Note that the association cannot be minimal and/or transitory, such as the oft made claim in the U.S. northeast that "George Washington slept here." It must be either the site of a pivotal event or have a direct linkage of some reasonable duration.

Adding to this list, one must consider form. That is, whether the architectural style or building form (in vernacular builds) is distinct and representative of its type in the historic context. Bluntly, a shack built in 1890 and remaining unaltered over the intervening decades will still be a shack in 2021.

Finally (in this article), is the question of function. Sadly there are some buildings that have outlived their usefulness and cannot be repurposed or be subject to adaptive reuse.

As the architectural historian Harry Sanders said, "Heritage must contribute something or it only serves itself. Without function, it is merely form ..."

Looking to the Stars



Sagittarius fills us with hope and anticipation

This week we have the full moon in Taurus and then the sun and Mercury entering Sagittarius.

Thursday, Nov. 18: Mercury in Scorpio in perfect harmony with Neptune in Pisces opens up imaginations. Also, news of good fortune. Happy 82nd to Margaret Atwood, poet, novelist and now TV script writer for her adaptation of "The Handmaid's Tale."

Friday, Nov. 19: Today, we have a full moon and lunar eclipse in Taurus. This is the first eclipse on the Taurus-Scorpio axis – an important eclipse since it will set the tone for the following two-year eclipse season. The lunar eclipse is square to Jupiter, asking us to set our priorities right, and it is trine to Pluto, giving us that inner drive and determination to figure out what to do next. It was Nov. 19, 1863, that Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous "Gettysburg Address".

Saturday, Nov. 20: Lively feelings do not work well with serious situations, even today. A gift from the heavens later on is a refreshing change. Canada's sixth Prime Minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, was born on Nov. 20, 1841. His image still embraces the \$5 bill.

Sunday, Nov. 21: Today, the sun enters Sagittarius. Sagittarius season is the most anticipated/sought-after astrological season out there. This is when the U.S. celebrates Thanksgiving, the holidays are near and we are filled up with anticipation and hope for the future. Today, Canadian singer/songwriter Carly Rae Jepsen turns 36.

Monday, Nov. 22: Getting to dinner is good. This evening is better. It was Nov. 22, 1963, that U.S. President John Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Tex.

Tuesday, Nov. 23: Between now and Nov. 25, the sun and then Mercury line up with

the south node of the moon. When our ego (sun) and our mind (Mercury) meet the karmic point of least resistance (south node) in the sign of wisdom (Sagittarius) I can almost hear Paul McCartney singing, "When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me, speaking words of wisdom, let it be." After one month of Scorpicornic turmoil, it's time to relax and let it be. "Let it be" – not to be confused with "let it go," which means to acknowledge what is otherwise an unquestionable truth – what is meant to be, will be, what is meant to unfold will unfold. On this day 162 years ago, Henry McCarty was born. He later was known as Billy the Kid. He was just 21 years old when he was shot dead by Sheriff Pat Garrett.

Wednesday, Nov. 24: Today, Mercury enters Sagittarius and the mood becomes even more optimistic. Mercury is in fact in detriment in Sagittarius, although you wouldn't believe it when you look at your gregarious and optimistic Mercury in Sagittarius friends. The reason Mercury is in detriment in Sagittarius is that Mercury is the planet of unfiltered perception, of zero-bias, and let's just say that Sagittarius is not the most unbiased sign of the zodiac, The good thing is that Sagittarius is biased toward optimism and we all need to take note of the full side of the glass from time to time, right? Joseph Brant, aka Thayendanegea, died on Nov. 24, 1807, on the shore of Burlington Beach, where a hospital named in his honour now stands.

Next week, we see Mercury conjunct the sun in Sagittarius. And more.

Please check out the new website www.lutts.ca as in Looking Up to the Stars. And you can get my \$29.95 horoscope, with interpretation, emailed to you. Either way, a unique Christmas gift.

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Time to get your evergreens ready for winter



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Garden Columnist

Over the last few weeks, I have been writing about different chores that need to be done in the garden before tucking everyone in for the winter.
I am not in a hurry for winter to arrive, but I am sure that one day soon this beautiful, warmer weather will be ending, and winter will be upon us.
Here are some more tips to help your evergreens make it successfully through the winter.
You should have stopped pruning your evergreens by the beginning of September. Pruning invigorates new growth and if the new growth has not had enough time to harden off before the cold weather, it will be more susceptible to damage during the winter months.

One of things that can affect your evergreens throughout the cold months is winter desiccation. This is where the foliage is losing more moisture than the roots can replace.
The best thing that you can do for all your evergreens is to make sure that you give them a slow, deep watering just prior to the ground freezing up for the winter. This is especially true for your broadleaf evergreens such as rhododendrons, hollies and boxwoods.
If the soil around the roots is moist going into the winter, then if we have an early February thaw, the moisture is right there, available to the roots.
People often ask if they must wrap their evergreens with burlap for the winter. The quick answer is "No."
If you have planted the evergreens in the proper conditions, there is no need for wrapping them with burlap. Why plant an evergreen to enjoy the foliage colour in the winter and then cover it with burlap?
The only time they would need protection is if they are getting constant strong winds, such as at a lake, or if they are located close to a road where they are getting salt spray.

If this is the case, instead of wrapping the entire shrub, consider putting up a barrier just on the side that is receiving the heavy winds or salt. The best way to create a barrier is to insert in a couple of stakes and attach either a couple of layers of burlap between them or a piece of plywood.
Another possible winter hazard for pyramidal evergreens, such as emerald cedars and pyramid junipers, is that they can be damaged by heavy, wet snow, causing the multi-leaders to split apart.
To prevent this from occurring, some people will tie rope around the entire perimeter of the shrub, which does detract from its appearance. Instead, simply tie together some of the main stems from the inside of the shrub with a stretch tie or with something that will not cut into the wood (e.g. wire through an old piece of hose).
By following the above tips, your evergreens will be better prepared to face another winter.
Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach. See her website at joanneyoung.ca.
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Covering your evergreens with burlap depends on the conditions they face in the winter. JOANNE YOUNG PHOTO

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