

HALLOWEEN PHOTO CONTEST

See details on Page 3

Harvest time

Behind the scenes bringing in the grapes



Partners in wine, high atop the harvester, Cassandra Weighaas-Barber, maintenance manager, and Amélie Boury, vice-president of winemaking and operations, at Chateau des Charmes. DON REYNOLDS

Jill Troyer
The Lake Report

It was still dark when Amélie Boury crawled out of bed at 5:45 on a late September morning.

Boury is the vice-president for winemaking and operations at NOTL's

Chateau des Charmes Winery and she had big plans for that day.

Harvest season was in full swing and Boury had her crew set up to harvest 50 tons of premium Chardonnay grapes that day, starting at 7 a.m.

Skies were overcast and

rain had fallen overnight, more rain than the forecast had predicted.

"When I woke up and opened my curtains, I said, 'Oh my God!' because everything was so wet," she recalls.

"I had to tell the crew, 'OK guys, we are not start-

ing at 7 a.m. Come for a walk with me through the vineyard at 9 o'clock and we will see how things are."

Boury says it's important for the grapes to be dry when they are harvested, "because if they are wet, the

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Chautauqua residents want town to curb traffic

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

A group of Old Town residents concerned about traffic and overcrowding in their neighbourhood near Ryerson Park is asking the town to take some aggressive steps to control the problems.

Among the proposals outlined in an extensive nine-page report by the residents is making Shakespeare Avenue and Niagara Boulevard one-way from Lakeshore Road to the traffic triangle at Johnson Street.

That would reduce traffic and make it harder for visitors to get to the area, the residents say.

As well, the group



Ryerson Park does not have the facilities to serve the large numbers of visitors, say Brian Crow and John Scott. A residents group has proposed some solutions. KEVIN MACLEAN

proposes better signage, stepped-up enforcement, increased parking fines and only allowing parking on one side of Chautauqua's narrow streets.

Street parking would be restricted to Niagara-on-

the-Lake residents with a municipal parking sticker while Chautauqua residents would each get one guest parking permit.

John Scott and Brian Crow, spokespersons for the residents group, say they

are not anti-tourism, they simply feel the neighbourhood and the lakeside park can't handle the big influx of visitors to the small community.

"We want a positive solution that is good for everybody, one that can restore some balance," Scott said in an interview.

Residents just want to enjoy their neighbourhood and the park without being overrun. "This is about looking after the safety and well-being of this community," he said.

They note the roots of the problems are complex, including the surge in short-term rentals, the

Continued on Page 2

Region launches bi-weekly garbage pickup next week

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's new alternate-week garbage collection schedule starts Oct. 19.

The change, along with new collection contractor Miller Waste, means homes in NOTL will only be able to put two garbage bags out every two weeks. Recycling and green bin collection remains weekly.

Garbage will be picked up the week of Oct. 19 in NOTL, on the usual collection day, with the following week being the first week off. Leaf and yard waste collection remains the same.

Catherine Habermehl, director of waste management



FILE PHOTO

for the Region of Niagara, says the purpose of the schedule change is to divert more organic waste away from the landfill by encouraging Niagara residents to use more blue, grey and green bins.

Habermehl said half of

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Santa Claus parade cancelled in NOTL

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Santa Claus is not coming to town this year – Niagara-on-the-Lake's traditional Christmas parade has been cancelled.

Bob Cheriton, spokesperson for the parade committee, said it was a tough decision, but a necessary

one given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the number of people the parade usually attracts.

"The bottom line is it's off," Cheriton said in an interview Tuesday.

"It's an unfortunate kind of thing. But with a large gathering like that I think

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COVID Update

NRP officer tests positive, NOTL sees rise in cases

The Niagara Regional Police Service says a "frontline uniform member" has tested positive for COVID-19. It is the force's first case.

The department said it is working with public health to ensure proper contact tracing is being done while the member recov-

ers in self-isolation.

Niagara-on-the-Lake has seen an increase in COVID-19 cases, with Niagara Region statistics showing four active cases as of Wednesday. NOTL has had 47 cases in total. For about two weeks prior to the latest cases, NOTL had no COVID patients.



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Chautauqua neighbours want **solution** to traffic issues

Continued from Front Page

town, B&Bs and travel sites promoting Ryerson Park as a destination, especially for sunset-viewing, and the narrow streets in what was once a cottage district of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The residents want to work together with the town to resolve the issues, Crow said.

The group grew out of conversations among neighbours, leading to their attempt to document the situation and propose some solutions, he said.

On Labour Day, the residents conducted a traffic count and in an eight-hour period from 11:20 a.m. to sunset about 7:40 p.m., they noted 1,470 cars and 69 motorcycles passed Ryerson Park in both directions.

Most of the vehicles were headed toward the park from downtown: 1,092 cars and 52 motorcycles. Headed into town were 378 cars and 17 motorcycles.

On top of the sheer number of vehicles, residents must contend with the noise of the cars and motorcycles accelerating in both directions, Crow said.

The traffic noise can



A residents group suggests making Shakespeare Avenue (lower left) and Niagara Boulevard one-way. SOURCED

make having a conversation in your yard almost impossible at times, he said. The residents are also concerned about pollution caused by vehicle emissions.

Making Shakespeare and Niagara Boulevard one-way is probably the most contentious proposal, Crow said.

To avoid sending unwanted traffic onto neighbouring streets, the group suggests routing cars back toward downtown when they reach the traffic triangle where Niagara Boule-

vard, Johnson Street and Palatine Place converge. Prominent signs would also discourage drivers from heading westward from downtown in the first place, the group says.

Crow and Scott said they would welcome trying the one-way traffic change as a pilot project to measure its effectiveness.

"Some people will be inconvenienced slightly" by having to change their driving habits, Crow said. And while some might not like the idea, he said he thinks when they realize it could

solve some of the area's problems, they will be in favour.

In some cases, people would have to drive a bit out of their way to get home, but "Wouldn't that be offset by having 30 per cent less traffic on our streets?"

Presented that way, many skeptics will approve, he said.

The group's report says its suggestions have been endorsed by the executive of the Chautauqua Residents Association and received "tacit approval" from that organization's members

at their annual meeting in September.

The number of visitors has been growing for years as Ryerson Park is a destination for sunset-watching and picnicking, Scott said.

And this year, despite the closure of the Shaw Festival and the U.S. border, problems got even more out of hand, he said.

The park has no washrooms, which leads to people relieving themselves in nearby bushes, on people's property or along the waterfront, he said.

"It's gone beyond civil-

ity," he said. "It's become a human sanitation issue and it's become a massive safety issue."

There are no sidewalks or curbs in the area.

When visitors fill the five designated parking spots on Niagara Boulevard, the overflow traffic often moves on to Vincent and Wilberforce avenues, both narrow streets that are only about 13 feet or four metres wide. According to the town, the minimum width for a typical two-lane urban street is about 20 feet or six metres, plus shoulders.

With cars parked on Chautauqua sidestreets, sometimes on both sides, traffic can't get through, people have difficulty getting to their homes and Scott fears emergency vehicles could be blocked.

The residents' report cites one "recent incident where an ambulance could not make it down Shakespeare Avenue because of parked vehicles."

With busy, two-way traffic along Niagara Boulevard, the residents also fear for pedestrians.

"Somebody's going to get hit sooner or later on one of these streets," Scott said.

NOTL will **examine** residents concerns, chief administrator says

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

While the traffic and crowding concerns of Chautauqua residents certainly have "some merit" and will be examined, the town's interim chief administrator is doubtful that limiting Shakespeare Avenue and Niagara Boulevard to one-way traffic is the best answer.

"We're willing to take a look at what they're asking for, but I don't think conversion to one-way streets makes sense at this point," Sheldon Randall said in an interview Tuesday.

But, "we think there's definitely some merit in some of their concerns," especially regarding parking, he said.

Making a main thor-

oughfare one-way might just move the problems elsewhere, he said, though he noted the town will consult its traffic planning specialists for input about the proposal.

"Typically if you're converting streets to one-way you're just pushing traffic to other streets. We'd have to be concerned how that would impact other residents," he said.

"We saw that this summer when we tried to close down Queen Street" and traffic was bumper-to-bumper on side streets as a result.

"The traffic needs to go somewhere but we don't want to just be pushing the problem to another street."

Looking to 2021, he hopes the high volumes of visitors experienced in Chau-

tauqua this summer won't recur. "We'll eventually see the end of COVID and travel restrictions and things like that. I think people will find other things to do," Randall said.

"But it doesn't mean we're not going to look at addressing some of the issues that we're currently having," he emphasized. "We want to be sure we're doing the right thing."

NOTL bylaw officers were busy in Chautauqua this summer. Since May 1, they have issued 261 parking tickets in the area, at least half of them on Niagara Boulevard, where there are five free one-hour parking spots, town statistics show.

Niagara-on-the-Lake has an arrangement with Honk Mobile, a parking app that

allows online tracking and payments. Randall said the municipality will investigate whether the mobile app can help resolve some of the area's parking problems.

"Our staff are going to take a look at different options for parking restrictions in the Chautauqua area. We're also going to reach out to residents for further input and bring some of that information back to council with our recommendations."

Whatever changes are made will have to be implemented for next summer, he suggested.

He said staff are considering using the town's Join The Conversation platform to encourage residents to offer feedback and ideas.

This summer, all of the park areas along NOTL's

waterfront were crowded, he said.

But he said he understands the frustration of Chautauqua residents, a small, quiet community with narrow streets running off Circle Street. He also acknowledged, thanks to promotion on social media and elsewhere, it is widely known that "if you want to see an awesome sunset, Ryerson Park is the place to go."

"A lot of people are coming into town from outside the Niagara area looking for something to do. The border not being open, people are looking for things to do and finding themselves in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and they're enjoying our parks."

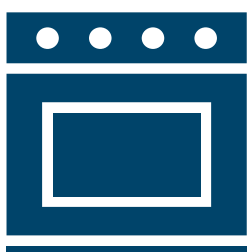
Looking ahead to next year or whenever COVID-19 restrictions end, he thinks

people will find other places to visit.

Visitor numbers have remained pretty steady all summer, he said. On the Saturday and Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend, a total of about 12,000 vehicles were counted entering Old Town via Mississauga Street and Queen's Parade.

That's about on par with other recent weekends, including the first weekend of summer, when the province had just entered Stage 2 of the pandemic recovery. Town stats showed 12,800 cars entered Old Town on that June weekend.

"I think when we get back to some sense of normal, I think we will see less traffic," Randall said. "But, again, I don't have a crystal ball."



Starting October 19, 2020

DISCONTINUATION OF CURBSIDE APPLIANCES AND METAL COLLECTION

Starting Oct. 19, there will be no curbside pickup of large appliances or metal household items (such as stoves, refrigerators, dishwashers, bed frames). These items can still be dropped off at a Niagara Region Drop-off Depot or collected through private scrap metal haulers/dealers.

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Shaw aims to **resume** shows in May

Staff
The Lake Report

The Shaw Festival plans to return to the stage in May with a reduced 2021 season.

Many of the productions originally scheduled for 2020 will now appear as part of the 2021

playbill, the festival announced Wednesday.

“This is an expression of faith. Of course, it is impossible to know what the situation will be next year,” said artistic director Tim Carroll.

“We may have to change our plans again. We will be ready to do so. But we have

decided to be optimistic and plan for a season.”

Mindful of pandemic protocols, the Shaw is prepared to perform to reduced-capacity audiences.

The planned 2021 season includes “Gypsy,” “The Devil’s Disciple” and “Sherlock Holmes and

the Raven’s Curse” at the Festival Theatre, “Charley’s Aunt” and “Flush” at the Royal George, and “Desire Under the Elms” and “Trouble in Mind” at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre. “A Christmas Carol” and “Holiday Inn” will be staged for the holiday season.

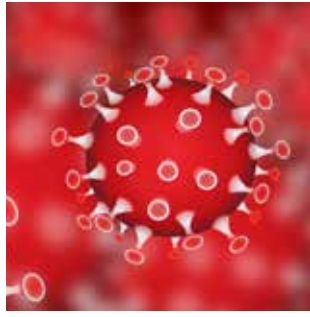
Town **repeals** mask bylaw, will use province’s

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake council has repealed its mandatory mask bylaw and will follow the province’s mask restrictions instead.

The motion to repeal was made Wednesday evening by Coun. Wendy Cheropita during a special council meeting.

There was chatter among councillors as to the best



PIXABAY

course of action regarding the mask bylaw, since there are multiple sets of laws in place.

The region, province and town all had their own versions of the mask bylaw.

Ontario’s statute requires a face covering in public indoor spaces and whenever physical distancing is a challenge. Children age two and up need to wear masks.

The law that has precedent is the one that is the most restrictive, said Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

Craig Larmour, director of community and development services for

the town, said so far no charges have been laid under the town’s mask bylaw, but pointed out the province had previously been encouraging education instead of enforcement.

Now Ontario has switched gears and is leaning toward more of an enforcement position, he said.

The provincial law is also consistent for business owners to understand, so they aren’t confused by multiple sets of laws.

Change in garbage pickup to promote **green bin** use

Continued from Front Page

the garbage in a typical bag is food matter and organic waste.

“Having those two (garbage) containers probably will not be needed if residents begin to use their green bin. Fifty per cent of the garbage bag currently is organic material. And we do know that 14 per cent of the current garbage bag is made up of recycled material that can be redirected into the blue and grey box program.”

She said it looks like people are preparing for the change, with a 92 per cent increase in the number of bins sold since July compared to 2019. There’s also been a 72 per cent increase in the number of blue and grey bins distributed from last year.

Blue, green and grey boxes are available to residents through the region’s website.

People with medical needs or families with children in diapers can apply to have garbage picked up weekly.

Other changes apply to large household item pickups. The region will no longer pick up appliances and metal, and while there previously was no item limit,

it will be capped at four items per call.

Residents can call multiple times if they need more items picked up, Habermehl said.

Curbside pickup audits show roughly 92 per cent of people who use the service are placing less than four items at the curb, while the majority put out two items or fewer, she said.

She also noted since 2007, the tonnage of metal and appliances that have been placed on the curb has decreased by 97 per cent.

Businesses in NOTL located outside a designated business area will also be switching to every other week pickup. In the business areas, all waste collection services will continue weekly.

The region’s slogan to promote the pick-up change is “Box It. Bin it. Sort it.”

“With the sub-message being, really, it’s worth the effort,” said John Armstrong, president of Armstrong Strategy Group, which worked with the region to promote the new plan.

“It’s worth it regarding cost avoidance, it’s worth it regarding preserving landfills, regarding preserv-

ing the environment. So, that’s really the anchor of the campaign that we hope the public will embrace in order to get to the diversion of levels the region wants.”

For the last couple of years the region’s diversion rate has been about 57 per cent, Habermehl said, though the region is aiming to get that number to 65 per cent in 2020.

The last time the region saw a large increase in diversion rates was when it implemented a one-bag-per-week policy, she said, while acknowledging it’s challenging to get people to change habits.

“Unless you implement a policy change that’s going to drive that behavior, it’s very difficult for people, for residents, to change their behavior.”

Particularly with the green bin, it’s “ick factor or the yuck factor” prevents people from changing.

“Residents don’t really want to handle that material,” Habermehl said, but really, it’s the same garbage, “you’re just putting it into a different bin.”

Habermehl said the region is also going to save about

\$1 million per year with bi-weekly garbage pickup — an important cost-saving measure when the cost of waste collection has gone up around the province.

The total cost of waste management for the region is just under \$53 million. Of that total, waste collection accounts for about \$20 million.

Net cost is about \$36 million, thanks to revenue of about \$17 million.

She said across Ontario garbage collection and processing contracts have gone up anywhere from 20 to 114 per cent, “and that’s just simply due to inflation.”

Habermehl said there will be a learning curve for all involved — contractors, residents, region staff and businesses.

If there are any issues, people can call the waste info line at 905-356-4141 or contact the region online through its website, niagara-region.ca.

Habermehl said in the end, “the success of this program will depend on the residents and businesses and their participation in the diversion programs that are offered at the curb.”

FOLLOW YOUR DREAM, HOME.



Nancy Bailey has added to her team! Meet Sassy Bailey (on the right). She is eager to meet her first client Darby who is showing off his home at 1317 McNab Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, with wooded trails and lots of space for them to run and explore. **\$1,350,000**

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



Ann-Marie Shirley · Engel & Volkers Oakville, Brokerage
Sales Representative
226 Lakeshore Road East · Oakville · Ontario · L6J 1H8
289-969-6222
ann-marie.shirley@evrealstate.com

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HALLOWEEN PHOTO CONTEST

It's time to get those costumes out!
Send us your Halloween photos and we will pick the best submissions to run in our Halloween edition Oct 29.
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Send submissions to editor@niagaranow.com

The Lake Report

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Contributors: Brittany Carter, Jessica Maxwell, Jill Troyer, Tim Taylor, Denise Ascenzo, Linda Fritz, Dr. William Brown, Brian Marshall, NOTL Museum, Susan Des Islets, Jaclyn Wilms, Collin Goodine, Leslie Moulson, Steve Hardaker, Plunger Patrol, Ross Robinson, Tim Carroll, NOTL Writers' Circle, Lisa Tache, Megan Vanderlee, and many more members of the NOTL community



Contributed by **Patty Garriock**

"Keep your face to the sunshine and then you never see the shadow."

- Helen Keller.

We welcome your letters

The Lake Report welcomes your letters to the editor. Please, write early and often.

Letters ideally should be under 400 words long. Occasionally, longer letters may be published. All letters may be edited for conciseness, accuracy, libel and defamation.

Please include your full name, street address and a daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated.

Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published.

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The Lake Report

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Editorial: Library is engaging, unique

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

There's a stark contrast to the modern Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library and what you might expect to find in a town steeped in rich local history. And it's something for which we can all be thankful.

The newness of the building, the open, bright and often-dusted shelves, provide a fresh literary atmosphere. At first glance, that brightness and openness might feel slightly at odds with the historical significance of the town.

One might expect ancient volumes on endless dark shelves in a quiet alcove of antiquity. Something more reminiscent of the Addison Library at St. Mark's Anglican Church. With its

collection of books brought over from England dating back to 1548, the small but crucial collection tells the story of the town's wartime beginnings and its rise from the ashes.

The welcoming, exuberant library in the new building on Anderson Lane tells an altogether different story.

The cheerful faces in the well-lit space weave a tale of community coming together. It provides the perfect setting for newcomers to town, both young and old, to meet over a shared love of books.

But more than books, NOTL's library offers programming bridging gaps between what you once knew and what you have longed to learn.

Free "Ask a Tech" sessions provide solutions to

questions about common and new technological gadgets. STEAM Storytime emerges children in science, technology, engineering/environment, art and math. The Camelot Years in Physics by Dr. William Brown offers a limited weekly comprehensive talk on "the most productive period in the history of science."

More than free sessions to boost personal interests and education, library staff are always thinking forward, planning the next event and working to engage the community. COVID-19 shut down the world for a few brief but impactful months, and the library with it, but staff have since picked up where they left off by adapting to the new world of virtual

event planning.

The space is so much more than old books and ancient history – the NOTL Public Library is a community hub with the drive to reach the residents in town where they are, to continually engage people any way they can.

Much like the incredible people who have been born and raised here, or the equally fascinating people who have been drawn to NOTL for one reason or another over the years, the library is a beautiful mashup of young and old, modern and historical, mundane and extraordinary. It is an important institution that helps make Niagara-on-the-Lake the incredible town we all know it to be.

editor@niagaranow.com



Yes, residents and visitors love NOTL's patios

Dear editor:

This is in response to Samuel Young's request for input from restaurants on keeping patios on Queen Street, ("Let's make NOTL patios permanent," letter, Oct. 8).

We are restaurant owners on Queen Street and found

that the public feedback with respect to the patios has been overwhelmingly positive.

We were told by people it adds a vibrance/ambiance (with respect to dining) to the town that it did not have previously. It gives visitors and locals a new perspective

while dining in our town.

This was an initiative by town staff and is an idea that residents seem to love.

Hopefully staff and council have received enough positive feedback from residents and businesses alike that they will approve these to remain in place

until next year.

It will also be very helpful as a whole to the street as we continue through this pandemic to another summer, which might not be much different than this summer.

Scott Gauld
NOTL

U.S. doing a better job on flu shots

Dear editor:

First, kudos to pharmacist Sean Simpson for his efforts to service the NOTL community with his innovative mobile flu shot idea.

Otherwise the flu shot kickoff in Ontario is an unmitigated disaster.

Shortages abound everywhere – pharmacies and clinics, already booked up or out of supply, are unsure as to when they will be resupplied.

They "hope" to hear around Oct. 27. This is unconscionable and speaks

volumes to the general breakdown in the management of our deteriorating health care system.

Addressing a priority system, given that front-line workers should be first in line, the next priority should be assigned to seniors, say over 65, and those with pre-existing conditions.

Seniors' high-dose shots should be prioritized accordingly. To my knowledge there is no priority system, accordingly, those who perhaps never get a shot will be having one this

year assuming it will help fend off COVID-19.

As a result, the regular shot getters will be bumped farther back in the line.

The USA, on flu shots, is well ahead of Canada. My son, who lives in East Amherst, N.Y., a suburb of Buffalo, had his shot back in September.

Today, Tuesday, Oct. 13, I checked with Simpson's Pharmacy: booked up and out of stock. Shoppers Drug: booked until Nov. 3 and out of stock. My doctor's office at the medical centre: "We are

just setting up our website. You will have to keep checking."

I am a super senior (over 80) with a pre-existing condition and to say this is frustrating is an understatement.

Had the border been open I would gladly drive to the United States and pay for the shot. Unfortunately, this option is not available.

How many more Canadians think our government is paying lip service to our health concerns?

Samuel Young
NOTL



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OPINION

Letter critical of heritage trail was **full** of errors

Dear editor:

This is in response to a letter from Cam Lang, "Heritage Trail deserves a full, comprehensive plan," published Oct. 8.

We feel obliged to write a reply to this letter because there were so many errors and incorrect statements that are clearly false. A clarification is needed. Cam Lang is obviously unaware of the heritage trail committee's work over the past three years.

In fact, there is a comprehensive plan for the trail that was developed after a lot of consultation. For more information he could have easily checked the heritage trail site (www.heritagetrail.ca) to find what we hope to achieve with our four-phase plan.

He is correct that different approaches will be needed for each phase, and as such, a complete plan would be costly and subject to change as the work progresses. Hence, the work and final planning is being done in phases.

The idea for the trail to be a legacy project of the Canada 150 Committee came from a meeting with representatives of the St.

Dauids community who expressed concern about the condition of the railroad right-of-way between Line 9 and York Road. The NOTL 150 Committee decided that rehabilitation of the entire right-of-way would be an excellent legacy project to protect the trail.

The heritage trail committee is made up of volunteers who have worked hard over the past three years to develop a plan, then figure out how to pay for it, while at the same time listening and responding to comments, both positive and negative, about the plans for Phase 1 of the trail.

All of this has been conducted with full transparency and all our meetings are recorded and available for public viewing as dictated by the town, since we are now an official committee of the town.

As well, the committee is planning a full public review of the town's plans for the next portion of the trail before we begin to do any work. More details will soon follow on that. The committee is listening and will continue to do so.

Mr. Lang refers to the "slathering of gravel" on

what is in fact the first 400 metres of trail. A lot of research and engineering went into the decision to use fine stone filings for the surface rather than paving it.

His statement does no justice to the design and work that went into establishing a solid bed for the new surface so that it would not wash away and remain for many years with minimal maintenance.

Since completion, the usage of that portion of the trail has reportedly doubled. There have been reports of users with walkers and wheelchairs who could not have navigated on the previous rough surface. We on the committee are so pleased that the rehabilitated trail has proven so popular. In fact, Mr. Lang, we do walk it and use it ourselves.

You also refer to the "slaughter of trees." Seriously? If you had read the explanations published earlier in this very paper, you'd know the removal of some trees was done by the town doing regular maintenance to remove several very large and dangerous dead trees.

This is town property. They are forced to act responsibly to protect users and neighbours on the trail. It had absolutely nothing to do with the heritage trail committee and its future plans.

In fact, the committee is committed to maintaining and enhancing the canopy. We have planted several dozen native species on the trail so far and plan to continue this next spring.

Also, as much as we would like it to be the first, the first steam locomotive in the province was not on the Erie and Ontario Line coming into town, it was on the Ontario, Simcoe and Huron United Railroad.

Mr. Lang's criticism of the heritage trail committee and its volunteers is sadly misplaced and denigrates all volunteers that work so hard to make NOTL a more vital town.

Despite the errors in your letter, one point you make remains true. The committee hopes to protect as well as rehabilitate this vital, historic trail for its full 11-kilometre distance.

Rick Meloen, chair
Tony Chisholm, vice-chair
Heritage trail committee

Opinion column showed **left-wing bias**

Dear editor:

I was surprised by the offensive debut column by Mike Keenan, "Politically confused? Here's a primer on left, right and others," Oct. 8.

While I get the media leans heavily left, it is rare that the writer is so blatantly inappropriate in describing those they disagree with or, in Mr. Keenan's case, those they clearly despise.

To suggest "the right" would rather see someone die than help them out is beyond belief. I would suggest in his analogy that the "left" might be standing on shore yelling for the government to do something while the "right" would take the initiative to save the swimmer.

However, in my perspective I could not see anyone putting money before life. That level of discourse is

best left to the CBC or Toronto Star, which unrepentantly cater to the left. Most Liberals and Conservatives I know share a belief in basic human dignity and differ only in how we get to those goals.

Of course, the bias showed earlier in the article when political beliefs showed the "Atilla the Hun" right wingers with no mention of left-wing extremists. Perhaps that fits

with Mr. Keenan's beliefs and he is entitled to believe what he likes.

My only suggestion is that Mr. Keenan not hide behind a veneer of teaching others what the left and right stand for without stating his obvious bias. I am disappointed in the The Lake Report for going down this path. Usually your approach is much more measured.

Mike Macdonald
Glendale

Protesters hurting business, town **nowhere** to be found

The following letter was sent to Lord Mayor Betty Disero on Tuesday.

On Sunday, Oct. 11, the "anti-horse brigade" was out with more than 30 people.

May I remind you that Premier Doug Ford has restricted the sizes of large gatherings, yet these people

were allowed to walk about, block the roads, etc., and many did not wear masks.

Where were the town's by-law enforcement officers? I had to personally call 911 and get the police involved as your council and town hall did nothing.

I asked some of the pro-


testers why no mask? Their answer was "Don't be stupid. We are outside!" When questioned about large group gatherings they said nothing, but shoved a microphone in my face and shouted "No more horse-drawn carriages."

I would very much like a

reply today. Our shops' sales are being affected, children are crying in fear. Police can't act without bylaw there but they weren't around or were hiding as I suddenly could not find any when people were out protesting.

Simon Bentall
NOTL

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Harvest time

Early mornings, long days and always at the mercy of Mother Nature

Continued from Front Page

water will dilute the sugar level of the juice” – and that’s bad for the wine.

When she and her crew walked the vineyard at 9, the vines were still wet. “So I said, we’ll do it again in two hours. At 11 it still wasn’t dry enough, but finally, by noon, the grapes were dry, so we got started.”

Paul Bosc, whose father Paul Bosc Sr. founded the winery in 1978, explains that these particular grapes are growing on the Paul Bosc Estate Vineyard and they are used to make their most premium Chardonnay, so it’s especially important to have the right conditions to pick them.

Walking through the estate vineyard, Bosc, president and CEO, points at the vines with obvious pride, saying, “These vines were planted in 1983 and 1984. Who would have thought they’d still be here today, producing high-quality grapes?”

That makes the vines 36 years old. “I see great beauty in that. Most commercial vines only last 20 to 25 years,” he says.

The delayed start of harvesting on this day means “now we’re racing against the clock. We’ll pick until dark, or they’re done, or it rains.”

The mammoth bright orange harvester lumbers through the vineyards at a distance, leaving a slight cloud of dust in its wake and vines stripped of their fruit.

Bosc bristles at the old debate over machine versus hand-picking, saying, “It’s incredible how sophisticated these machines have become. There may be stylistic reasons to hand-pick, for example for sparkling, but there’s no quality issue.”

Bosc bought his Gregoire Harvester from Bordeaux, France, in 2003 at a cost of \$350,000, and he says it’s very efficient. “There’s very little MOG (material other than grapes). The stems are left on the vines and just the grapes come in, ready for pressing.”



Top: Amélie Boury squeezes juice from the grapes to check the sugar level. Left: Fresh from the vines, into the bins and on to the winery. Right: Father and son, Paul Bosc Jr. and Sr., with mascot Luna as the grapes come in. Bottom: An iconic sight among the vines in Niagara during harvest. PHOTOS BY DON REYNOLDS

The harvester straddles the row of vines and gently shakes them, so the ripe grapes fall onto a conveyor belt and are delivered up into the bins.

Timing is everything at harvest time, so “speed is of the essence” and the machines are dramatically faster than hand-picking.

Boury is high up in the cab with maintenance manager Cassandra Weighaas-Barber at the steering wheel. Their enthusiasm is palpable.

For Boury, this harvest has special significance, for two reasons. “This is my 10th harvest at Chateau des Charmes and it’s my first year as vineyard manager, as well as winemaker, so the first time to do it from beginning to end. It’s really rewarding to see them grow all year, then come to this point. Plus, it’s been such a great growing season.”

Boury is from France, where she earned two master’s degrees, including an

M.Sc. in viticulture and oenology from the prestigious University of Montpellier.

Though her smile is wide and authentic, harvest time is not for the timid. “How do I describe harvest time? It’s mixed. I always say exciting first, then stress. I feel happy, but I also feel stressed and tired.”

There are a lot of variables to juggle. “We’re always looking to balance sugar and acid. In recent days we had several

hot days, and everything jumped so quickly, we had to make fast-paced decisions.”

“Last week we went 24/7, to pick grapes in their optimal condition. When you get that perfect window, you gotta go!” she exclaims, adding, “Everyone knows it’s hard, but we gotta get it done! This team is great.”

When the harvester bins are full, the grapes are tipped into big plastic bins

and hauled to the winery.

Bosc Sr. himself is in the yard when the grapes arrive.

Bosc Jr. says, “They were harvesting grapes from his personal vineyard, that’s not something he’d miss! My dad is 85 now. This is his favourite time of year. He seems to draw fresh energy during harvest time.”

Boury is hands-on at every step of the process, from the vineyard to the winery yard. Once the grapes arrive, she checks the sugar level of the juice before they head inside to be pressed, the grape juice flowing down to the cellar to be cooled and settled.

Also on hand for that process is associate winemaker Chris Robinson, Boury’s husband. The two met in 2012 at the Icewine Festival on Queen Street and married in 2016. Robinson has been at Chateau des Charmes for a year now.

Boury laments, “We both have harvest birthdays, one in September and one in November, so we never celebrate on our actual birthdays.”

She and her crew worked until 10 o’clock that night, when they had to stop harvesting because of rain. Twenty rows of Chardonnay grapes stayed on the vines that night, waiting for the next window of good conditions so they could be picked.

There’s a moment each harvest season, “when the last bin goes in to the yard and there are no more grapes out there. In that moment, I am so happy,” she says.

That moment, still some weeks away, will come once the red Bordeaux grapes have been brought in.

The roller coaster ride of harvest season will then be over for another year, though the work will continue in the cellar. Wine will be fermented, aged and tasted.

It will be months or years before the wine from the 2020 harvest is bottled and ready, but Boury is confident it will prove to be an exceptionally fine vintage.

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Pedal Pushers top **\$17,000** in provincial fundraiser

Lord Mayor Betty Disero gets ready to send off local riders for a ceremonial 10-kilometre ride. The Pedal Pushers, a seven-rider cycling team raising funds for Niagara-on-the-Lake Palliative Care, collected more than \$17,000 in the provincewide, month-long Healing Cycle ride. The total was the largest raised by any palliative care organization. Two local riders were also top individual fundraisers. The effort was supported by 10 businesses and hundreds of local and long-distance donors. It is the eighth year of Niagara-on-the-Lake team participation, raising more than \$100,000 for the organization. Each year the organization helps provide end-of-life care for over 150 local clients. SUPPLIED

Santa Claus **isn't** coming to town this year

Continued from Front Page

pretty much everybody understood that we really didn't have any options."

He said typically the parade brings thousands of people out to watch it, which presents a real health concern amid the pandemic.

"The (parade) drives so many people in such

large crowds that you can't compromise the health and safety of our residents and the visitors," he said.

This year's parade would have been Cheriton's 20th year being involved.

He thinks it's the first time the parade has been cancelled.

"I don't know if historically there's ever been a

reason to cancel it before," he said. "I found nothing in the past that would suggest that it ever had to be canceled."

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said other options are being explored, including hosting it virtually or replaying the footage from last year's parade during some sort of smaller celebration.

Cheriton said the parade committee is looking at some other options, but nothing is finalized yet.

"We are toying around with a few ideas. And we're doing some logistics checks and so on to see what's feasible. You know, we haven't homed in on anything in particular at this point."



Santa won't be taking his sleigh down Queen Street this year due to safety concerns amid the pandemic. FILE PHOTO

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RIDDLE ME THIS

I'm a city that's 3/7 chicken, 2/3 cat, and 2/4 goat. What am I?

Last week: If eleven plus two equals one, what does nine plus five equal?

Answer: Two

Answered first by: Margie Enns

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Jason Baker, Sheelah Young, Samuel Young, Margaret Garaughty, Julia Klassen, Sheila Meloche, DAVID STEELE, Pam Dowling, Wade Durling, Katie Reimer

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



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Image Detail: Lauren Stewart Harris, Study for "In the Ward 1, City Paintings", 1918. Collection of Samuel E. Weir ©RiverBrink Art Museum

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<p>18</p> <p>Hike Yoga and Wine Expedition - 11 a.m. - Niagara College Teaching Winery</p> <p>GOC Bike Nights - 2 p.m. - Club 55</p> <p>Halloween Ghost Tours at Fort George - 8 p.m. - Fort George</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Committee of the Whole: General - 6 p.m. - Virtual: livestream.com/notl</p> <p>Ask a Tech: One on One Tech Tutoring - All Day - NOTL Public Library Contact creganti@notlpl.org</p> <p>Storytime with Cubetto - 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. - Virtual notlpubliclibrary.com</p> <p>Niagara's Name that Tune - 7 p.m. - The Irish Harp</p>	<p>20</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Virtual Tasting Tour: The Hare Wine Co. - 7 p.m. - Virtual: niagaraonthelakerotary.ca</p> <p>Rhyme Time: Virtual Circle Time for Infants and Toddlers - 11 a.m. - Virtual: notlpubliclibrary.com</p>	<p>German Conversation - a.m. - Virtual: contact@aol.com</p> <p>Lecture Series with Wrapping up: Art, Religion and Every - a.m. - register@notlpl.org</p> <p>Virtual STEAM Story - a.m. - Virtual: notlpubliclibrary.com</p> <p>Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. - Public Library</p> <p>Autumn Reads Book - to 6:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Famous and Infamous: Benjamin Lett - 2 p.m. - NOTL Museum</p> <p>Family Friendly Online Studio - Virtual: niagarapumphouse.ca</p> <p>MOMS Niagara Active Fall Yoga and Wine - 10 a.m. - Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery</p> <p>Halloween Ghost Tours - 8 p.m. - Fort George</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Community Wellness Committee - 10 a.m. - Virtual: notl.org</p> <p>Council - 6 p.m. - Virtual: livestream.com/notl</p> <p>Ask a Tech: One on One Tech Tutoring - All Day - NOTL Public Library Contact creganti@notlpl.org</p> <p>Storytime with Cubetto - 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. - Virtual notlpubliclibrary.com</p> <p>Niagara's Name that Tune - 7 p.m. - The Irish Harp</p>	<p>27</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Virtual Tasting Tour: Between the Lines Winery - 7 p.m. - Virtual: niagaraonthelakerotary.ca</p> <p>Heritage Trail Committee - 2 p.m. - Virtual: notl.org</p> <p>Urban Design Committee - 5 p.m. - Virtual: notl.org</p> <p>Virtual Coffee with the Lord Mayor - 6 p.m. - Virtual: https://www.facebook.com/Town.of.NOTL/</p> <p>Rhyme Time: Virtual Circle Time for Infants and Toddlers - 11 a.m. - Virtual: notlpubliclibrary.com</p>	<p>German Conversation - a.m. - Virtual: contact@aol.com</p> <p>Create a Copy! A Great Painting - 10:30 a.m. - RiverBrink Coach House</p> <p>St. Davids Pool Fundraising Committee - 2 p.m. - St. Davids Pool</p> <p>Virtual STEAM Story - a.m. - Virtual: notlpubliclibrary.com</p> <p>Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. - Public Library</p>

Know of a local event? Tell us. Submit it directly to www.niagaranow.com

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The Lake Report

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Oct. 15 - Oct. 31

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	15 Wildflowers in Watercolour - 7 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre	16 Learning to Draw Portraits - 1 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre	17 Back to the 80s Debut - 7 p.m. - Club 55 Decorate Pumpkins at the Pumphouse - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Book Club: Drawing for the Absolute Beginner - 9 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Amble into Autumn: Art of SoulCollage - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Virtual: riverbrink.org
21 Dr. Brown: Science, Day Life. - 11 p.m. - NOTL	22 Minecraft Club: Virtual Building Challenge - 4 p.m. - Virtual: notpubliclibrary.com 30 Minute Micro:bit Virtual - 4:30 p.m. - Virtual: notpubliclibrary.com	23 The Wild: Explore the Wilds of NOTL - 10:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Learning to Draw Portraits - 1 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Halloween Ghost Tours at Fort George - 8 p.m. - Fort George	24 Rescheduled Made in Canada: Spring Market - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - The Hare Wine Co. Book Club: Drawing for the Absolute Beginner - 9 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Digital Doors Open NOTL - 10 a.m. - contact@nhsm.ca
28 Learn to Curl Event - 6:30 p.m. - Niagara Falls Curling Club Minecraft Club: Virtual Building Challenge - 4 p.m. - Virtual: notpubliclibrary.com	29 Halloween Ghost Tours - 8 p.m. - Fort George Comedy Show: Humour and Hops - 8 p.m. - The Exchange Brewery	30 Halloween!!! Accessible Trick or Treating - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Halloween Goat Yoga - 1 p.m. - Small Talk Vineyards Halloween at Fort George - 12 p.m. - Fort George Halloween Ghost Tours - 8 p.m. - Fort George	31

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Prepping a **Thanksgiving** feast

Right: Staff at the Irish Harp Pub prepare Thanksgiving dinner. On the menu was a three-course turkey dinner with roasted cauliflower bisque with Irish cheddar and croutons, savoury stuffing, Irish champ potatoes, roasted brussel sprouts and butternut squash and Irish apple cake for dessert. Top left: Owner Jovi Joki and chef Adam Brooker. Bottom left: Tyler Dempsey, Theresa Vaerrier, Adam Brooker, Nina Szabo and Dusten Cameron. RICHARD HARLEY PHOTOS



ADD YOUR VOICE TO NIAGARA'S OFFICIAL PLAN

NIAGARA IS GROWING!

The region is forecasted to grow to a minimum of 674,000 people and 272,000 jobs by the year 2051. To guide this growth, Niagara Region is creating a new Official Plan.

The Niagara Official Plan will set out objectives and policies to shape Niagara's physical development, while protecting what's valuable. It will cover topics like Niagara's natural environment, land needs, growth allocations, housing, transportation, urban design, employment lands, agriculture and more.

YOU'RE INVITED

Attend a series of virtual public information centres to learn more about key directives and core policy information that will inform the Niagara Official Plan. Get informed, ask questions to the project team, and provide your input on how Niagara should grow.

Information will be collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

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

VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRES

Register for each session at niagararegion.ca/official-plan. Webinars have already been held covering several topics, including Natural Heritage and Water Resource Systems, Growth Management, Land Needs, Secondary Plans and more. Video recordings of each session will be available online in the near future.

Tuesday, Oct. 20
6:00 p.m.

Topic: Rural & Agriculture, Mineral Aggregate Resources, Archaeology & Culture

Wednesday, Oct. 21
6:00 p.m.

Topic: Infrastructure, Water and Wastewater, Stormwater, Transportation

You can also provide input or ask questions at any time by emailing makingourmark@niagararegion.ca or calling David Heyworth, Official Plan Policy Consultant at 905-980-6000 ext. 3476

Lions pies raise money for youth sports

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

If you got a Thanksgiving pie from the Niagara Lions Club, you got a little bit of love from across the community.

The fruit was donated by farmers, the sugar was donated by club members, the flour was donated by a local grocery store, and the shortening and eggs were donated by a local diner.

All together, Lions club members baked 160 pies to help raise money for youth sports in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"It was a real community effort," said Lions club volunteer Dorothy Wiens.

Lions club members spent a full day baking last week.

"We started at eight in the morning, by the time I got home it was 5:30 p.m.," said Wiens.

The fundraiser was new



Josh Koop hands a pie to Barbara Neufeld during the sale on Friday. RICHARD HARLEY

this year because COVID cancelled other planned events.

"We just thought, you know, with COVID, we've got to think up new ideas. And so, it's been a real community effort to get this going."

The club supports minor

sports every year, but this year the pandemic has made raising money a challenge, said Lions Club member Erna Dick.

"Usually we have other fundraisers, we have a car rally the first weekend in August all the time and we have masses of people

coming out to the car rally at the fire hall. And that's a good fundraiser, too, but this has been a very poor year for us," she said.

Part of the problem was the group couldn't meet in-person to plan the fundraising events.

"It's been a tough year," she said, adding the group is still hoping to be able to do its popular Christmas tree sale, normally held in the parking lot of Cornerstone Church in Virgil.

The pie fundraiser luckily went well, Wiens said.

"It's been really great, the community has been wonderful," she said.

"We had a mom come by and buy two pies because she said her son plays minor hockey, and we support minor sports, so she wanted to come and support us."

Wiens also got a call from NOTL resident Joe Pillitteri Friday morning ordering 20 pies.

Derek Shervill, 88, was a fixture in Chautauqua

Shaun Devlin
Special to The Lake Report

Derek Shervill, a long-time resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake, died suddenly on Oct. 8 and residents of Chautauqua lost a longtime friend and neighbour.

Derek, 88, pipe in hand, could be regularly seen walking down Vincent Avenue to Ryerson Park with his dog Biscuit, or "Bicky" for short, greeting people along the way.

He spent a great deal of time in the park, strolling along the lake, sitting quietly at a bench or talking at length to other park-goers. Over the years, the dogs changed but they were always named Bicky.

Derek grew up in London during the Second World War. If asked, he would talk about air raid sirens, and about hearing the German planes overhead and the eerie silence before the bombs fell.

Sometimes, he would have to stay overnight if he had been at a friend's house when a bombing raid started. He had been an enthusiastic member of the sea cadets and had served



Derek Shervill died suddenly on Oct. 8. SUPPLIED

in the British army after the war.

In his early 20s, Derek met Pauline at a neighbour-ing community centre in southeast London, where he asked Pauline to accompany him to a wedding as their first date. In April 1955, they themselves were married. They commuted via the Tube from their apartment to different parts of London where he worked as a composer and she apprenticed as a wigmaker.

The couple moved to Toronto in 1957 seeking further opportunity. Derek continued to work in the printing industry and for the last 20 years or so of

his career lived and worked at a commercial printing company that he co-owned in Leaside.

The family moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake about 25 years ago. Although a long way from home, they never lost their appetite for fish and chips, which they got weekly from the Legion or the Sandtrap.

Derek and Pauline were members of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Lawn Bowling Club for many years, where Derek held a variety of executive positions, including president.

Before a tournament he would often be at the club early to set up the equipment, then work

with a partner to run the competition. One member recalls Derek's sense of humour always made it easy to work with him. Derek was made a life member at the 2019 annual meeting in recognition of his contributions to the club.

Physical fitness was important to Derek. He lifted weights and did pushups in his downstairs man cave during the commercials when his favourite TV programs were on.

A few years ago, a neighbour bought a new snowblower and did a Good Samaritan deed by clearing Derek's driveway. While thankful for the gesture, Derek told the neighbour to stop and scolded him for depriving Derek of the exercise.

And speaking of the driveway, one always knew it was Derek's because he left his van, with the custom licence plate "Sherv," on it long after the van ceased to be roadworthy.

In addition to his wife Pauline, he is survived by his son Drew (Jane), daughter Kim, grandchildren Natalie, Liam and Tatum, and great-grandson Rya.



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- Across**
- Single things (5)
 - Marine calamity (9)
 - Abominable snowman (4)
 - Teacher (10)
 - Form of bowling (6)
 - Termination of a pregnancy (8)
 - Stiffness in the joints (10)
 - Peruse (4)
 - Needless bustle (4)
 - Eye-glasses (10)
 - Statue support (8)
 - Like some mammoths (6)
 - From e.g. Portsmouth or Basingstoke (10)
 - Taverns (4)
 - Opponent (9)
 - Prolonged pain (5)
- Down**
- Cousin of your daughter (5)
 - Capital of Bhutan (7)
 - Minor Biblical prophet (5)
 - Execute (7)
 - Earthquake scale (7)
 - Dark brown (9)
 - Capital of Austria (6)
 - Home (9)
 - Ask for a loan (3)
 - Not sweet (3)
 - Wand showing sovereignty (7)
 - Lounges (7)
 - Frustrate (6)
 - Shutting (7)
 - Kind of month (5)
 - Fabric woven from flax yarns (5)

Crossword Puzzle

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Last issue's answers


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Dr. Brown: Equations, black holes and the Nobel for physics



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

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

Normally we wouldn't associate mathematical equations with beauty.

But that's precisely the claim made by Carlo Rovelli, an Italian physicist in his popular gem of a book, "Seven Brief Lessons on Physics," about Einstein's equation in his 1915 general theory of relativity that set forth the relationships between space-time, mass, energy and gravity.

Here's the equation:
 $R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi T_{\mu\nu}$

But what does the equation mean? Walter Isaacson in his masterful biography, "Einstein: His Life and Universe," explains the equation this way: "The left side of the equation compresses all the information about

how the geometry of space-time is warped and curved by objects and the right side describes the movement of matter in the gravitational field. The interplay between the two sides shows how objects curve spacetime, and how, in turn, this curvature affects the motion of objects."

Or as the physicist John Wheeler put more simply and eloquently, "Matter tells spacetime how to curve, and curved space tells matter how to move."

Even so the equation doesn't look all that impressive. Yet that equation transformed how we see the universe. How so? Before general relativity came along, the universe was thought of in Newtonian terms. The universe was a static affair, without a beginning or end, and planets orbited the sun according to Newton's laws of motion and gravity – except for Mercury.

Einstein's theory for general relativity upended that understanding. For example, it wasn't long before Lemaitre, working with Einstein's equations for general relativity, suggested that the universe was expanding and if expanding, must have been very much smaller and denser at some point in the distant past – a hypothesis later coined as



An illustration of a black hole. PIXABAY

the Big Bang.

General relativity revealed a four-dimensional universe, three for space and the fourth for time, linked together as spacetime and shaped and warped by gravitational fields, in turn created by mass. From that realization, there were several important implications.

One was that major cataclysmic events such as the merger of pairs of black holes or a pair of neutron stars would roil space-time, sending ripples throughout the space-time fabric of the universe. The first such ripples from the merger of a pair of medium-sized black holes was detected in 2015, for which work a Nobel prize was awarded in 2017. Since then many collisions of pairs of black holes have been detected.

Going further was the prediction that dense masses such as the left-over matter from a supernova explosion of a star could collapse space-time about itself to create a blackhole – black because the gravitational pull of all that mass traps the escape of light and everything else that falls into the black hole.

Despite the theoretical possibility of blackholes, it was only last year that the first black hole was actually seen – it was gargantuan, with a mass millions of times that of our sun.

This year the Nobel prize in physics was awarded to Roger Penrose from the United Kingdom, "for his discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity," and the independent but mutually

supportive studies of Reinhard Genzel from Germany and Andrea Ghez from the United States, which revealed indirect evidence for a supermassive black hole at the center of the Milky Way.

Such is the strength of the gravitational field surrounding this giant black hole, that the trajectories of nearby stars were altered – betraying the presence of this giant black hole. Probably most galaxies harbor similar giant black holes, which play important roles in the formation, life and fate of stars in their galaxies.

Not all black holes are giants of the order of millions – even billions of stellar masses. Some are more pedestrian, such as the just over 20 or so sun masses of the two black holes whose

collision produced the first detectable gravitational waves. At the other end of the spectrum, some theoretical physicists suggest there might be tiny, atom-sized black holes.

All of which brings us back to that equation – Is it beautiful? I think so because of the astoundingly linked and mobile nature of the universe it describes. In the same vein, that even more cryptic equation, $E = mc^2$ is beautiful too, for it describes in the simplest, most direct fashion, the fundamental relationship between energy (E) and mass (m), and incidentally, why stars shine.

LIBRARY SESSIONS:
The next session on physics at the library wraps up the physics series and will explore important questions such as the limits to which we can understand the universe and the natural world. Then, beginning in November, together we will explore this year's crop of Nobel prizes. In my opinion, based on the quality and impact of the studies, this is a very good year. So, plan to attend.

For information and to register for the series, contact the Niagara-on-the-Lake library or check the library website, notpubliclibrary.org, for topics, dates and times.

Opinion: Kudos and gratitude for newly improved Ball's Beach

Ross Robinson
Special to The Lake Report

What the heck happened at Ball's Beach this summer?

In July we were swimming off the rocks, much like past years. Then, within five or six weeks, there were elegantly placed shoreline stabilization refrigerator rocks, a big and bending groyne to lessen erosion and a cute little beach for swimming in the famous Niagara River.

Yes, readers, you read that correctly. A public sector project completed in a timely fashion.

How did that happen? How did it happen so fast? Who should we thank, whose backs should we be

patting? Encomiums to the town and to what companies?

Back in August, I spoke briefly with a site supervisor from Rankin Construction. Think his name was Mike Thompson/Thomson. If any company could get this job done in a timely fashion, it would be Rankin, I thought.

This story is not meant to be a panegyric, but just think of the bureaucratic bodies that had to be coordinated. A nightmare! A veritable quagmire. Forms to fill out, meetings, approvals, sign-offs. Interjurisdictional turf battles. Yikes, I'm getting a headache.

How about the much appreciated thoughtfulness from the contract-

ing team. Each weekend, they didn't just fence off the work area, with cold No Trespassing signs and yellow plastic perimeter tape. They put up handwritten Sharpie signs on bristol board, "Do Not Climb on the Rocks."

The workers took time to provide trail access to the water, so we could have a swim or a bath/shampoo in the refreshing clear water just before the river flowed into Lake Ontario. Those were hot, humid days and what a delight it was to have a swim.

People visiting from other areas thought they had found a piece of paradise for their picnics and swims. Very cool and welcoming, eh? Such a kind



The newly renovated Ball's Beach. FILE PHOTO

and genteel act, which made the global pandemic summer a tad more pleasant. It was easy to physically distance at Ball's Beach, so we all felt good.


But how about the future parking congestion


down in the Dock Area on weekends? Will it become Ryerson Park/Chautauqua on steroids? Toilet facilities? Noise? Music? Tenting? Hibachis, wee BBQs? FUN! Yes, fun! Pass a bylaw.

Water draws people, both local residents and visitors. New Canadians from around the world will find the new and improved Ball's Beach. That darned internet, eh? The experts will figger it out and manage yet another positive problem.

Swimming and sunbathing on an international border, with Fort Niagara across the river, and yachts, paddle boarders and kayakers floating by. Who needs to go to the Caribbean? We have our slice of heaven right here in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

In closing, may yer humble scribbler sincerely thank the folks who worked hard and skillfully to get the Ball's Beach job done. Very impressive and professional.





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NOTL SNAPS

Turkeys still gobbling



A group of turkeys on Niagara Street is happy to have made it through Thanksgiving. TERRY BELLEVILLE

One-glove Micky recovering from surgery



Micky the kitten is recovering from surgery to remove his left leg. He is happy to be rid of his cone. JANICE WHITE

Shaw sports a mask



The George Bernard Shaw statue sporting a Leafs mask and a bottle of sanitizer. ROSS ROBINSON

Wineries of NOTL launches new website, kicks off 'Taste the Season at Home' series

Andrea Kaiser
Special to The Lake Report



SANDRA OZKUR PHOTO

The Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake association launched a brand new website on Oct. 1.

The new site was designed by Niagara's own Form & Affect. It has a sleek new look and offers expanded functionality. One of the primary objectives of this enhanced platform is to showcase our iconic wine destination and the world-class wines being produced by our wineries.

The website offers stunning visuals and informative content about our wine-making appellation and the

terroir of our vineyards.

It also highlights what makes each of our distinctive wineries so special and the immersive wine experiences offered. And since the website was designed with consumers in mind, there is also a new personalized "favourites" page to

help people plan their next escape to wine country.

On the same date of the website launch, the Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake also kicked off the "Taste the Season at Home" campaign.

Since this year the wineries are not able to offer an on-site Taste the Season experience as they traditionally do in November, they want to give people an opportunity to create their own experience at home.

Each winery is offering a carefully curated six-pack of locally crafted 100 per cent VQA wines that are perfect for the holidays. Included in these gift packs

are recipes from local restaurant chefs that have been expertly paired with the wines.

These one-of-a-kind "Taste the Season at Home" six-packs can be found on the new SHOP page and will be available throughout October and November.

By clicking on the BUY NOW button consumers are redirected to individual winery websites where they can place their orders and get these hard-to-find wines delivered directly to their home.

Andrea Kaiser is the chair of Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Obituary

David Mansfield



MANSFIELD, David George

Passed away peacefully on October 6, 2020, at the age of 100. David was born in St. Catharines, Ontario on December 31, 1919 to John and Mary (McLean). He was raised in Thorold, Ontario. As a young man he proudly served in the RCAF during WWII. After a brief stint as an announcer at CKTB Radio in St. Catharines, David com-

pleted courses through Queen's University in municipal administration and became a Professional Purchasing Agent for the cities of St. Catharines and then London, serving as President of the Ontario Purchasing Agents Association for two years. Upon retirement David and Irma moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake. Throughout his life, David received letters of appreciation from charities, mayors, MPPs, and a Prime Minister in recognition of his service and on-going participation on a number of municipal committees, and community events. He was proud to have been a canvasser for the Heart and Stroke Foundation for more than 50 years as well as a Community representative on the Niagara Police Services Board. Predeceased by his beloved wife Irma (Crabtree) of 70 years; son Jeff; and his siblings Alec, Jack, Gordon, and Gwen Kincaid. Survived by sons and their wives Jerry (Susan) and James (Fay); four grandchildren: Rebecca Sheriff (Andrew), Daniel, Gordon, J. Colin (Justine); and three great grandchildren: Connor, Dylan, and Warren. David and Irma enjoyed an active life together curling, golfing, lawn bowling, singing with the Barbershoppers, dancing and playing bridge. With an inventive mind, David built a prototype for a bicycle brake light, and drew up detailed plans for equipment to deal with land mines on the Falkland Islands which he sent to Margaret Thatcher. Handy with tools, David was able to fix just about anything. Always the joker, David was dressed up as a gorilla last Halloween. With Irma's passing in 2015, David decided that his goal was to live to one hundred years of age. He celebrated that achievement with family and friends in January. Much thanks to the staff at St Joseph's Villa in Dundas for their kindness and the excellent care that David received. David's ashes will be interred at the Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery at a later date. Remembrances and donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation can be made at www.morganfuneral.com



Celebrate life's events

The Lake Report would like to help you celebrate events that are important to you. Birthdays, anniversaries, achievements, or just a fun message to a friend. It's a great way to support your local paper, and have some fun at the same time! Contact editor@niagaranow.com



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EXPLORING PHOTOS

WITH NOTL MUSEUM



Queenston Baptist Church

The Queenston Library and Community Centre was built as a Baptist church between 1842 and 1845. A Baptist congregation began in Queenston around 1808 with Rev. Elkanah Holmes. This church was used for religious services until 1918 and by the Women's Institute until 1954. It was later donated to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and became the Queenston Library, thanks to the efforts of women in the community such as Rosanne Fedorkow. On your next fall drive, cruise by this stunning Gothic Revival-style building at 32 Queenston St. and note that today there is no longer a spire.

ARCHITEXT

A happy home?

Brian Marshall
Columnist



Inconspicuous entry easily found. SUPPLIED

Liveability is a word I use a great deal when speaking to residential design.

In fact, I am fairly confident that the clients who enlist my consulting services may grow tired of just how often that word crops up during our conversations, since I consider it a requirement to review all design decisions against "liveability" criteria. But, what does that mean?

The short answer is that good design must support and augment the lifestyle of those who live in the space allowing for the full use of the building without compromise. Unfortunately, this is rarely the case.

Generally, other factors are

allowed to trump the rigorous application of liveability criteria and, when this occurs, the home owners inevitably end up making lifestyle compromises around odd spaces or rooms that don't seem to work as they should.

The bedrock of liveability is the intuitive flow of the home. That begins with an exterior facade which should always be designed to lead one to the main entry, even when that door is not immediately evident.

Then, upon entering the house, movement between the rooms should be accom-

plished without conscious thought; each found where one would expect them to be. Failure to accomplish an intuitive flow results in frustration at the very least and, at worst, seldom used or even abandoned spaces.

I recall one instance of being surprised to find a large but clearly "abandoned" room between kitchen and garage off the mudroom in a client's home. When asked about it, they replied that it was originally supposed to be a study but they found the location so inconvenient that it was relegated to use as a storage

room.

Practicality and functionality are important liveability criteria; both often sacrificed by designers, builders and developers.

Consider the example of a bungalow on which the attached garage was located off the bedroom wing, forcing the homeowners to carry their groceries through the entire house in order to reach the kitchen.

Or a striking modernist home with an unbroken span of two-storey glass across the space containing the great room and kitchen, which provided no privacy from the street, and required the owners to install motorized blinds that deprived them of both light and view while spoiling the appearance of the facade.

Or the expansive master suite in a developer's model home that realistically left only enough square footage for two other bedrooms into which the designer forced three small sleeping cubicles.

A topic to-be-continued.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA) No. 17 Glendale District Plan

Niagara Region will hold a Public Meeting pursuant to Section 17 of the Planning Act R.S.O. 1990, as amended, to discuss an amendment to the Regional Official Plan to add policy related to the vision and key directions of the Glendale District Plan.

PROPOSED CHANGE

Niagara Region's Council recently endorsed the Glendale District Plan on Sept. 17, 2020. This endorsement confirms the vision and commitment to Glendale becoming a mixed use, vibrant and complete community. The next step to implementing the District Plan is a Regional Official Plan Amendment to incorporate the vision and direction into the Regional Official Plan.

The proposed amendment includes policy to implement the vision for Glendale, the nine key directions to achieve the vision and outlines the additional work required for success of the Plan. This amendment will also ensure that future decisions within the Glendale area are consistent with the vision and direction of the District Plan.

More information on the Glendale District Plan can be found at: niagararegion.ca/projects/glendale-niagara-district-plan/

LOCATION

The Glendale study area located primarily with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, with a small portion of the south west area falling within the City of St. Catharines. The study area is approximately 700 hectares generally bound by Queenston Road to the north, the Niagara Escarpment to the south, Concession 7 Road to the east, and the Welland Canal to the west. The QEW bisects the study area and includes the Glendale Ave interchange.

PUBLIC MEETING

This Public Meeting is being held during Niagara Region's Planning and Economic Development Committee under the provisions of Section 17 of the Planning Act, as follows:

DATE: **Monday, Nov. 9, 2020**

TIME: **1 p.m.**

LOCATION: This meeting will be held virtually

A copy of the proposed amendment, information and materials related to the amendment are available at niagararegion.ca/ROPA17.

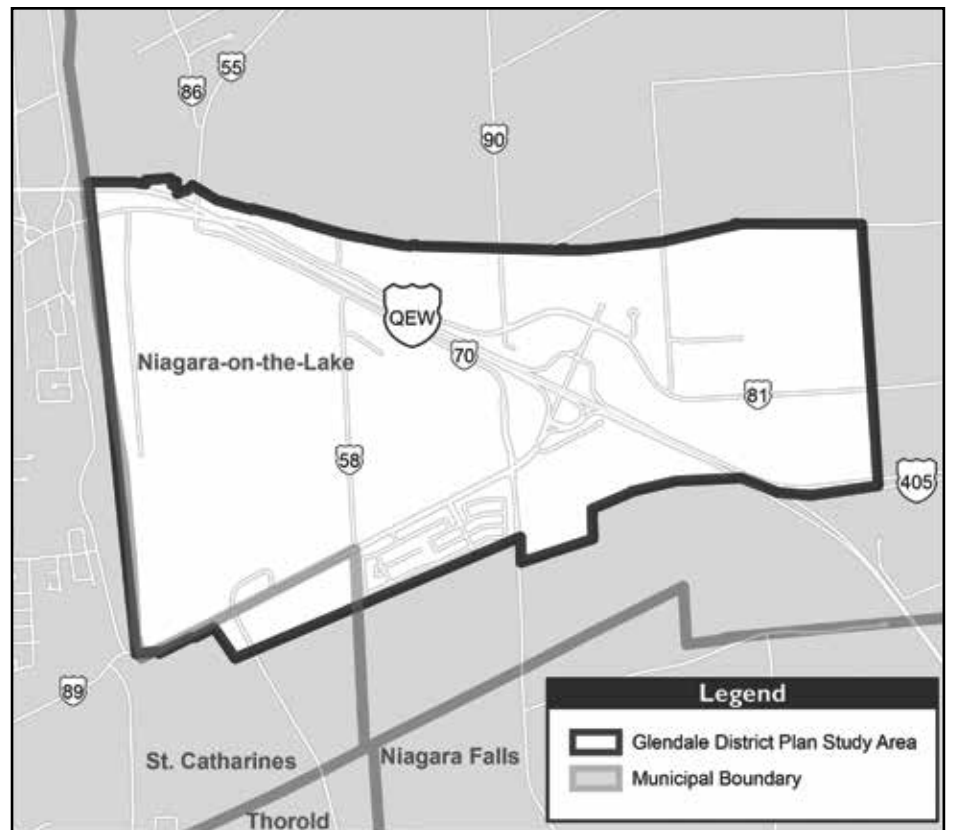
Due to efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to protect all individuals, the Council Chamber at Regional Headquarters will not be open to the public to attend Committee meetings until further notice. To view a live-stream meeting proceedings, without the ability to provide oral submissions, please visit niagararegion.ca/government/council

HAVE YOUR SAY

Public input on ROPA 17 is welcomed and encouraged. During this time, written comments are the preferred method of receiving public input. Written comments may be sent by mail or email. You can also provide oral input by joining the electronic meeting.

WRITTEN SUBMISSION: To provide written input, please either mail your comments to the Office of the Regional Clerk, Niagara Region, 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Ontario, L2V 4T7 or clerk@niagararegion.ca by 9 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 6, 2020.

ORAL SUBMISSION: To provide input orally at the remote public meeting, please pre-register with the Regional Clerk clerk@niagararegion.ca before 9 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 6, 2020. All registrants will be provided with instructions on how to use your computer, tablet or phone to participate in the remote electronic Public Meeting. Registrants will be notified of Council's Decision.



MORE INFORMATION

For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, contact **Kirsten McCauley, Senior Planner** at 905-980-6000 ext. 3532 or kirsten.mccauley@niagararegion.ca.

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to participate in meetings or events, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Special accessibility accommodations and materials in alternate formats can be arranged by contacting the Niagara Region's Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-685-4225 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Council of Niagara Region on the proposed official plan amendment, you must make a written request to the Regional Clerk c/o Regional Clerk, Niagara Region, 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, P.O. Box 1042, Thorold, Ontario L2V 4T7, or clerk@niagararegion.ca. Such requests must include the name and address to which such notice should be sent.

Personal information collected or submitted in writing at public meetings will be collected, used and disclosed by members of Regional Council and Regional staff in accordance with the **Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)**. The written submissions including names, contact information and reports of the public meeting will be made available. Questions should be referred to the Privacy Office at 905-980-6000 ext. 3779 or FOI@niagararegion.ca.

LEGAL NOTICE

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council of Niagara Region to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Regional Clerk before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to Niagara Region before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

Notice issued October 15, 2020.