



Thefts worry St. Davids | Page 5



Hit seasonal farmworker is recovering

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A 51-year-old Niagara-on-the-Lake seasonal farmworker is expected to recover from his injuries after being struck by a car last week.

Ceto Reid was on his bike when he was hit by a blue Hyundai at Carlton Street and Dorchester Boulevard in St. Catharines

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Solmar, Two Sisters win Charter case. Town to appeal

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The town is appealing a court ruling last week that stayed charges against two of developer Benny Marotta's companies.

A justice of the peace on Oct. 5 verbally granted Two Sisters Resort Corp. and Solmar (Niagara) 2 Inc. a stay of Heritage Act charges laid by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The charges are related to

Continued on Page 4

Driver in pedestrian fatality thought he'd hit a deer, court told

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

A charge against a Niagara-on-the-Lake driver involved in a fatal late-night collision with a pedestrian could hinge on the court's interpretation of a single word.

"Forthwith." NOTL farmer Robert Enns, 55, faces a relatively minor charge in the deadly incident, failing to report an accident.

The 40-year-old victim, Matthew Wilson, also from Niagara-on-the-Lake, died after he was struck by Enns'

pickup truck on Lakeshore Road east of Stewart Road just after 10:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 4, 2021.

Under section 199 of the Highway Traffic Act, a person is required to report any accident "forthwith" if someone is injured or if it appears more than \$2,000

in damage was caused.

The big questions before the court last Thursday in Welland were whether Enns reported the collision as soon as possible – "forthwith" – and if his estimate of \$1,500 damage to his



Matthew Wilson was struck and killed by a truck in April 2021. SUPPLIED

Continued on Page 6

Half a century of NOTL child care

Niagara Nursery School seeks pictures and stories from its first 50 years

To help mark the 50th anniversary of the Niagara Nursery School and Child Care Centre, The Lake Report scoured the scant early records of the school, searching for photos and stories that would provide a hint about how and why the school has survived a remarkable 50 years. There wasn't much to be found. But Kevin Bridgman, an early student, dug out the photograph at right that showcases the first in a series of stories about the school. The year was 1973. It was taken at Harmony Hall, a long-since closed community centre in Chautauqua. These are the children of 1973. The story is a little bit about who they were then and a little bit about who they are now and how they got there. We couldn't find everyone. But our calls reached California, Milton, Italy, Wisconsin, Thunder Bay, Calgary and so on. So, the rest is up to you. Do you recognize any of these 15 youngsters? Please let us know at editor@niagaranow.com.



Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

Fifty years ago, what was to become the Niagara Nursery School, opened in the newly converted Kinsmen Club Hall, at the end of Mary Street.

It was a makeshift affair — one professional teacher, with all parents expected to take volunteer shifts.

None of the former parents interviewed by The Lake Report could remember how much it cost. But it wasn't much. If

you needed to miss your volunteer day, you were expected to find a replacement or pay \$4.

As you can imagine, memories were a challenge in the evolution of this story. Half the interviewees were 2 ½ years old at the time. The other half are

now almost 80.

But everyone credits Janet Howden with being a co-founder of the fledgling organization.

Howden left Niagara-on-the-Lake for Collingwood, Ont.,

Continued on Page 16

High-quality grape harvest is silver lining to low yield for 2022

Jill Troyer
The Lake Report

Episodes of severe cold last winter have meant a low yield for this grape harvest season, but exceptional conditions this summer and fall have ensured excellent quality.

"It's what we predicted," said Matthias Oppenlaender, chair of Grape Growers of Ontario.

"Overall we'll get less than half of last year's yield," he said, but, "the weather is perfect, so the quality is phenomenal."

Bill Redelmeier, proprietor

of Southbrook Organic Vineyards in Niagara-on-the-Lake, noted, "On the flats of Niagara-on-the-Lake, yield is down 40 to 70 per cent."

Damage to the vines was caused by a combination of heavy rain last fall, which

Continued on Page 2



Juan and Luis Fonseca-Mosqueda harvest Vidal grapes at Southbrook Organic Winery. DON REYNOLDS



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Left: Albert, top left, and Truman Yates were two of the brothers who served. Albert was killed in action. Two other Yates brothers also served but returned home safely. ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 124 Right: P.E.G. Yates, who went by Edward, was the second brother lost, killed when his Lancaster bomber was shot down. CANADIAN VIRTUAL WAR MEMORIAL



Hybrid grapes like Vidal fared better in extreme cold

Continued from Front Page

made the vines less hardy going into winter, and a number of extremely cold nights. Low spots were especially affected by pockets of cold air.

"It's all over the map, the relative yields are very site specific," said Oppenlaender.

At Southbrook, there won't be any Merlot harvested this year.

"Merlot is most prone to winterkill," explained Redelmeier.

"We lost yield but at least we don't have to do replanting. Some growers have had to tear out whole blocks and they will have to replant."

At Marynissan Estates Winery on Concession 1, there is no Merlot crop this year either.

"We harvested six to eight tons of Merlot grapes last year, but it will be zero tons this year," said winemaker Mitchell McCurdy.

Oppenlaender said Chardonnay and Pinot Gris crop yields are down 30 to 40 per cent and Riesling is down 20 to 30 per cent.

Hybrid grapes, such as Vidal, fared much better, as they are less vulnerable to damage from extreme cold.

Hand harvesting of Vidal grapes destined to make orange wine at Southbrook began in early October.

"The quality looks outstanding," said Reidelmeier. "We had a perfect summer."

It was quite dry and we've seen very little rain during harvest season."

While the Cabernet Sauvignon yield at Marynissan will be just half to three-quarters of last year's, McCurdy is very happy with how the grapes are developing.

"These are beautiful clusters, there's no rot, no worries. These grapes right now are very fruity, but the skins are still tannic so they're underripe."

Extra hangtime will allow the Cabernet Sauvignon grapes to fully ripen.

They likely won't be harvested until late October or early November, depending on weather conditions between now and then.

"Right now we want cool nights and some warm sun in the daytime. If we're below 15 degrees at night it keeps disease pressure down," McCurdy explained.

Oppenlaender said growers knew this was going to happen.

"But we always hope for the best. I said to my wife this morning, 'It's too bad we didn't get last year's yield with this year's weather and quality,'" he said with a wry chuckle.

Once the harvest is complete, "We're hoping for a decent winter, because as farmers always say, there's always next year," said Oppenlaender.



Luis Fonseca-Mosqueda harvests Vidal grapes at Southbrook Estate Winery. DON REYNOLDS

THE MONUMENTS MEN

The Yates family's sacrifice: Two sons lost

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

Ron Dale
Special to The Lake Report

The last RCAF volunteer from Niagara-on-the-Lake to be killed in action was shot down on Dec. 12, 1944.

It was a compound tragedy: His family had already suffered the death of one of his brothers, killed in action four months earlier.

Two other brothers served during the war but survived.

Oscar Yates and his second wife Alveretta Stevens raised four sons and five daughters in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Oscar worked at various times as a handyman, a carpenter and as an ice delivery man.

Not long after war was declared, on June 27, 1940,

their second-youngest son Leslie "Albert" Yates enlisted for overseas service in the Lincoln and Welland Regiment. He was only 18 at the time, still too young to vote but not too young to die for his country.

Albert was described by his company commander as "a serious man with a limited sense of humour which seems to cause friction with others."

He must have realized his own shortcomings as he was promoted to lance corporal but soon reverted to private at his own request.

After a period of training and postings in Ontario, British Columbia and Newfoundland, the men of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment were sent to Britain, disembarking in the British Isles on July 22, 1943.

For the next year more intensive training in England would prepare them for deployment to northwest Europe. Yates landed with his comrades in France on July 22, 1944, several weeks after the D-Day invasion of France.

On Aug. 11, only a few weeks after the arrival of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment in France, Albert Yates was killed in action. He is buried in the Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian Cemetery in France.

At the time of Albert's

death, his older brother William Truman Yates was also fighting in Europe as a gunner in the Royal Canadian Artillery in the 8th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment.

The youngest of the Yates family, Prince Edward Gooderham Yates, had joined the RCAF and was training in England as a member of a Lancaster bomber crew.

P.E.G. Yates, who went by the name Edward, was born in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Sept. 2, 1925.

On May 14, 1943, he enlisted in the RCAF. He was still under 18 and needed his father's consent to sign up.

Edward specifically requested to be trained as an air gunner. In an assessment of his suitability for air crew, one of his instructors described him as "pugilistic, care-free, restless, antagonistic."

After training at a variety of British Commonwealth Air Plan facilities in Canada, Yates was sent to England, arriving by ship on April 7, 1944. For the next three months three of the Yates men were in England awaiting their fates.

In England, P.E.G. Yates received more training in a Lancaster bomber and was promoted to flight sergeant. After completing training on Aug. 4, he was transferred to number 11

reinforcement base to await assignment to an active squadron.

Finally, on Oct. 10, 1944, Yates was assigned to 103 Squadron, Royal Air Force. At this point in the war, Bomber Command flew countless missions to bomb German cities.

On the afternoon of Dec. 12, his squadron was sent to bomb Bremen in Germany.

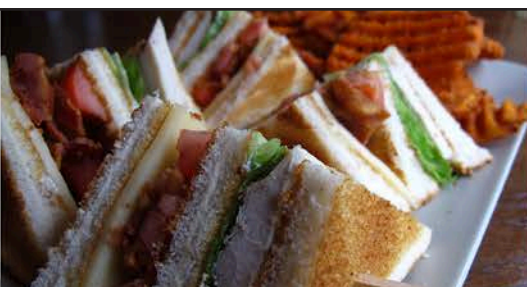
At about 8 p.m. during the flight, a German fighter plane raked the large bomber with cannon fire, setting two engines on fire. Witnesses saw a plane with its engines ablaze break up in the air and crash.

Two bodies were found, eventually identified as Flight Sergeant Yates and Flying Officer Pigot. Five of the crew members were able to parachute to safety before the plane broke up in midair.

Yates was buried near the crash site at Kolnerstrasse but was moved after the war to Rheinberg British Military Cemetery in Germany.

After the death of the two youngest Yates men, their oldest brother Arthur enlisted but did not go overseas. He died in 1980.

The second oldest, William, served in Europe in the Royal Canadian Artillery, leaving the army in 1946. He died in St. Catharines in 1983.



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Campaign Walkabout: Goettler finds support for stances on traffic and tourism

Journalists from The Lake Report are accompanying Niagara-on-the-Lake's mayoral candidates as they spend time campaigning and knocking on doors. The stories are published in the order in which candidates appear on the ballot: last week Betty Disero, this week Vaughn Goettler and, on Oct. 20, Gary Zalepa.

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



Liz Rigg and her husband Ian share their concerns about the town's lack of infrastructure to support seniors with mayoral candidate Vaughn Goettler, left. EVAN LOREE

Vaughn Goettler found several supporters in Virgil during his campaign walkabout on the Friday before Thanksgiving.

Among his supporters, the biggest concerns were the lack of medical support for seniors, the impact of tourism on traffic, and the town's spending on legal fees.

Resident John Williams said he sees cars racing down Highway 55 from the roundabout doing 60 km/h, even as they pass Crossroads Public School.

Like many of the other residents who spoke to Goettler, Williams saw traffic as a product of the tourism industry, but he also stressed the importance of tourism to the town.

"I'd like to see one portion of the street (in Old Town) closed off, where it's just pedestrians," he said.

Catharine Anderson said traffic is especially difficult during the summer, when the town's tourism activity peaks.

The St. Davids roundabout sparked some discussion. Eleanor Wiebe said she likes the proposal because it could help to move the traffic through the town more efficiently.

Her friend Christine Merza was against it.

Goettler pointed out that a school, some businesses and houses could be affected by the proposal.

"If the residents don't want it, then it doesn't work," Goettler said of the controversial roundabout.

Initially skeptical of Goettler when he arrived at the doorstep, Wiebe and Merza said they liked how the can-

didate addressed their questions on the roundabout.

Cass Svirplys, a 99-year-old immigrant from Lithuania, was out walking in the cold afternoon air when Goettler's campaign team stopped him to share their message.

"If the residents don't want it, then it doesn't work."

MAYORAL CANDIDATE
VAUGHN GOETTLER ON PROPOSED
ST. DAVIDS ROUNDABOUT

Svirplys told The Lake Report he'll be voting for Betty Disero.

"I think she's a good lady," he said.

Having grown up in the former USSR, Svirplys is thankful to live in a democracy where you can "talk with anybody" and "express what you feel."

Resident Liz Rigg stressed the need for additional bike lanes in Virgil.

"I'm an avid cyclist. There are just not enough bike lanes," she said in an interview.

"After all, we're supposed to be going greener and we're supposed to be riding bikes and not in our cars," she added.

Rigg was also concerned about the lack of medical infrastructure for seniors.

"A lot of elderly people have to move out of Niagara-on-the-Lake when they come to need an apartment or a residential home," she said.

Growth and development were important issues to the residents Goettler encountered as well.

"The town's gotta stop fighting," Mike Shephard said.

For him, progress and development are important because without growth, the town will be unable to provide basic conveniences.

Some felt the town is developing too quickly.

Merza said the town needs to preserve its streetscapes and manage development to save the town's character.

"They're tearing down homes in subdivisions and putting up great big monster two-storey homes" that don't fit in, she said.

Williams was also concerned about the direction of development.

"We're not Mississauga with that, but we're turning into Mississauga, Oakville and other things. I came here because of our history," Williams told Goettler.

He also doesn't like to see franchised restaurants like Dairy Queen and Sunset Grill encroaching on the heritage district.

Williams said he would go downtown more often if it was less expensive.

Goettler didn't cite any specific plans to reduce costs in Old Town, though he felt European towns manage to draw just as many visitors without having to upcharge them.

Goettler suggested the town could attract some Michelin star restaurants to bring in diners from afar,

without turning the town into another Niagara Falls.

"I call it Las Vegas North with a really nice waterfall," he said of NOTL's neighbouring municipality.

Williams asked Goettler if he would get town staff and council on his side to execute his vision for the town's tourism.

"I think I will," he said.

Resident Paul Kolenda is still undecided.

He likes some of Goettler's ideas, including "getting rid of all the trinkets and candy shops" downtown.

He was concerned about Goettler's lack of political experience, though.

For some residents, Goettler's experience as a business owner was a good substitute for his lack of political experience.

"He also ran his own business and been very successful at it," Rigg said, adding that it would be useful to the town to have someone who understood how to spend the town's budget efficiently.

Throughout the walkabout Goettler stressed the importance of working with developers rather than against them.

Williams asked Goettler what he would do to prevent developers like Benny Marotta from having their way with the Rand Estate.

"We have to get our official plan done and in place. And then we have to put the bylaws in place that support it, including contextual architecture and everything else," he responded.

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Council candidates talk needs of tourists and residents

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The question of the night at FocusNOTL's second meet and greet session for council candidates was whether the town serves the residents or tourists.

Four council candidates met last Wednesday night in a half-full Legion hall to talk about their ideas and take questions.

The effects of short-term rentals were brought up many times during the question period.

Candidate Nick Ruller was concerned short-term rentals could take properties off the market that could otherwise be filled by permanent residents.

Those residents would fill important roles as taxpayers, workers and community members, he said.

He describe non-hosted short-term rentals as "problematic" and said he doesn't support them.

A question from the media on short-term rentals described them as commercial hotels being operated in residential zones, without supervision or commercial taxation.

"The issue is if we change the zoning from residential to commercial on (those units), you now have com-

mercial property zoned within a neighbourhood," candidate Maria Mavridis explained.

"The zoning needs to remain residential. Therefore, I think that we need to increase licensing fees and put a cap on how many licences are given out," she added.

Incumbent Gary Burroughs wanted the difference between hosted and unhosted bed and breakfasts to be very clear

"The ones that concern us as neighbours are the unhosted and those can be limited," he said.

He also pointed out that many residents go south for the winter.

He suggested snowbirds could rent out their vacant properties over the winter to prevent the "hollowing out of our town."

"Not everybody wants to come and stay in a hosted bed and breakfast or the Prince of Wales," candidate Richard Mell said.

"I don't think we want to make this such an exclusive community that we only allow people that want to stay in a high-end hotel," he added.

Short-term rentals have often violated bylaws related to noise and grounds maintenance.

"Having our bylaw officers work later into the



Richard Mell wants the town to work toward a complete tourism plan. EVAN LOREE

evening for certain shifts will certainly help address that," Mell said.

Noise was another byproduct of the tourism industry the candidates discussed.

Asked if they would support a residential noise bylaw that would limit noise to about 55 decibels, the candidates were unanimously against the idea.

"Let's not look at a whole bylaw that covers the whole town," Mell said.

Mell was open to a conversation about regulating amplified music in certain areas but did not think a blanket bylaw was the solution.

"We don't have enforcement," said Burroughs.

"Enforcement people will not go at night without a police escort and police will not go up for a noise complaint," he added.

Ruller agreed, saying a bylaw wouldn't "actually solve anything" unless the town could address enforcement issues.

He argued that noise can be better managed through smart planning.

"We need to be proactive and not reactive," he said.

Mavridis, who sat on the noise bylaw committee, told the crowd that 50-55 decibels is slightly quieter than "this conversation I'm having with you right now."

In addition to issues affecting the relationship between tourists and

residents, the candidates were asked about municipal grants, discretionary spending and community outreach.

"There is an opportunity for reviewing municipal grants," said Ruller, who wanted to make sure the donations were benefiting the community.

Burroughs said town grants to community organizations are not huge amounts of money but they help to make a difference for the various volunteers and charities in town.

"I don't agree with giving the discretionary funds, as they have been in the past, to festivals and events to promote and bring tourism to town," Mavridis said.

"Discretionary funds that come out of the residents' taxes should go towards residential associations," she added.

She argued the town can use revenue from the municipal accommodation tax to promote festivals in the future instead.

Mell was not wholly in favour of supporting tourism programs with the accommodation tax and withdrawing municipal grants.

He suggested additional oversight for discretionary funding, though, describing it as a "fine line to walk."

On the matter of community engagement the candidates agreed it needs to improve.

Burroughs argued that the town needs to communicate with all parts of the community, including those who are not tech-savvy.

"Not everybody's on the computer," Burroughs pointed out.

Ruller said the town needs to be better at communicating public concerns, like road closures, in a timely manner.

Mavridis said the town's digital communication platform, Join the Conversation, needs to be more interactive.

"Before joining the conversation we need to as council open the conversation," she said.

Town will appeal court's decision to stay charges against Marotta companies

Continued from Front Page

the clear-cutting of trees on the Rand Estate in 2018 by Marotta's companies.

Two Sisters and Solmar claimed the case violated their Charter right to a timely trial since so much time has passed since the original charges were laid.

However, town chief administrator Marnie Cluckie said the town is appealing.

"The next council will have the opportunity to decide whether to continue or withdraw the appeal," she said in an email to The Lake Report.

"There are time limits in place. Therefore, if we were to wait for the next council to decide, we would lose the opportunity to appeal," she

added.

The Oct. 24 election is on the horizon and Lord Mayor Betty Disero said Cluckie was "given delegated authority" to decide whether to launch an appeal.

Disero said she was disappointed in the court ruling "because we had two years of COVID and there were times when the courts weren't hearing anything at all."

Though the written ruling has not yet been released, Disero said the decision was related to the timing of the case, not the merit of the charges.

According to the Canadian Legal Information Institute, a "stay" puts a legal proceeding on hold and can be temporary or permanent.

"Solmar and Two Sisters are very happy with the court's decision to no longer continue the case of the charges brought by the town under the Ontario Heritage Act," Giuseppe Paolicelli, general manager of Solmar Development Corp., said in an email to The Lake Report.

Paolicelli said the companies did not breach the Ontario Heritage Act by removing the trees in 2018 and claimed the removal had no effect on any of the property's heritage attributes.

"We have maintained throughout the process that the town had no reasonable or probable ground to institute the prosecution and that the prosecution was

politically motivated and undertaken without merit," he said.

The community group Save Our Rand Estate, known as SORE, felt completely different.

The charges were not dealt with on their merits, spokesperson Lyle Hall said in an email to The Lake Report.

"The only way the charges themselves can be dealt with is with a full trial on the facts. That hasn't happened. Yet," Hall said.

"Contrary to what's been suggested by some on social media, the charges were not dealt with on their merits. All that happened was that a justice of the peace accepted the Marotta group argument that the charges

weren't brought to trial quickly enough," he said.

Paolicelli said the court's decision has avoided an unnecessary and costly trial.

A trial could cost the town and taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in unnecessary expenses, he said.

The ruling prompted many NOTL residents to take to social media to complain about the amount the town is spending on litigation and legal fees.

Former councillor Martin Mazza said he voted against commercialization of Randwood from day one.

As a taxpayer, he's frustrated.

"We're paying a legal bill for someone else to stick another feather in their cap whether it's Betty or

anybody else, or SORE," he said.

If Solmar loses, the company will be out of pocket. If the town loses, taxpayers will be on the hook, he said.

"If the town wins, Benny loses, he pays. If Benny wins, the town loses. Solmar will dissipate, be forgotten about and me as a taxpayer has to pay the bill," he said.

"I'm not happy about that," he added.

Cluckie said she will ask the town treasurer how much the case is costing the town, noting "the town is involved in several matters with Solmar and Two Sisters."

"The cost of the prosecution in this matter is a small portion of the overall expense," she added.



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St. Davids neighbours concerned about series of vehicle **break-ins** and thefts

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Kristen Rose has lived in St. Davids all her life. Growing up, locking her doors wasn't something she had to worry about.

Now, she is one of several St. Davids residents who are frustrated and worried after a rash of thefts and break-ins in the area over the last few months.

Thefts have been reported at homes in the Four Mile Creek area and now near Warner Road and Angel Drive.

Overnight on Sept. 19-20, Rose's home was hit, along with two others in the neighbourhood, Niagara Regional Police said.

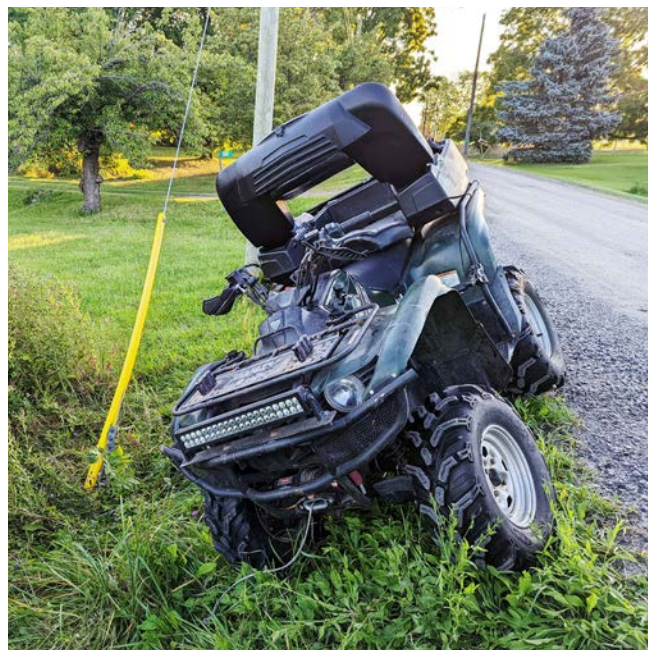
After hearing about the break-ins around Four Mile Creek, Rose started diligently locking her car doors throughout the summer.

However, on the night of the thefts in her neighbourhood, she hadn't locked her car, and the keys to her husband's ATV were left outside near the vehicle because he was planning to do some work on it the following day.

Her husband, Sean Rose, woke up at around 5 a.m. and heard a very loud vehicle outside.

"And it struck me as odd because, like, why is there a vehicle with a lot of exhaust going up and down the road?" said Kristen Rose.

Then, about an hour later, Sean heard his ATV



Kristen and Sean Rose's ATV after it was stolen and crashed into a ditch. SUPPLIED

start up and drive away. He jumped into his truck and followed it down the street to where the thief crashed it into a ditch, said Kristen Rose.

Sean said he discovered more than one suspect at the scene, but when he tried to call 911, it didn't work.

"Bell did not activate the 911 feature on his phone," Kristen said.

He got the phone about a month ago and has been able to make calls and send texts. After speaking to multiple Bell representatives about the issue, he was told that the 911 feature wasn't "turned on."

A representative from Bell Canada contradicted that employee's assertion and told The Lake Report all phones can readily access 911 calls and don't need any special connection.

Rose feels her husband's inability to call 911 from his phone is a huge safety concern. If it was a potentially life-threatening situation and he didn't have the ability to call for help.

Officers have released a description of the suspects: Two white males, one in his late 20s to early 30s, skinny with short hair, the other a white male between the ages of 50 and 60, skinny with short hair and glasses.

There was also a female suspect in her 20s, skinny with long hair.

Kristen Rose, however, said her husband saw three men and a woman that night.

Police said the suspects drove a car with a loud muffler. However, Rose's husband said the vehicle he saw was a beige or

gold minivan with a loud exhaust.

There also was a second vehicle, which police described as an older model, dark-coloured GM or Chevy pick-up truck.

The suspects searched Rose's vehicles, taking items such as loose change, prescription sunglasses and a wool blanket.

"They had rifled through everything. They pretty much just turned the vehicle upside down," she said.

It's normally a quiet street, said her neighbour Milenko Markovic, whose vehicles also were broken into.

Markovic is missing several items, including two GPS devices.

He and his wife moved to St. Davids from Scarborough to get away from this sort of thing, he said.

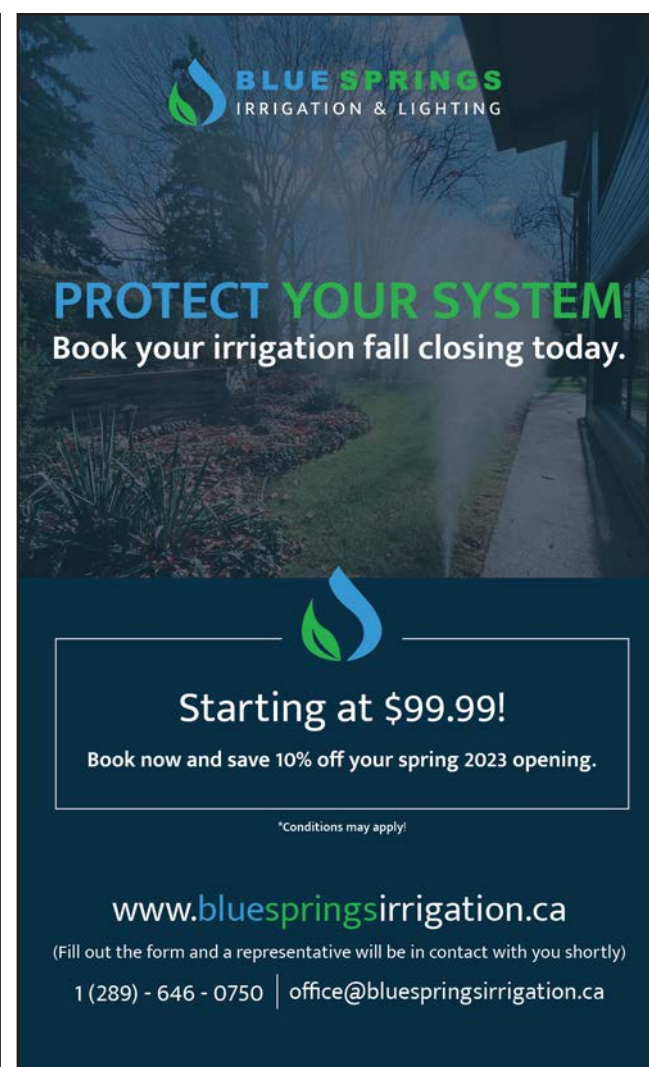
"We don't want this in St. David's," he said.

Markovic has five vehicles and the three that were left unlocked were broken into. He normally leaves his car doors unlocked, but since the thefts, he religiously locks them all.

It's really unnerving, said Rose, to know that people have such a lack of respect.

She's now installing security cameras on her property, which is something she never thought she'd have to do in St. Davids.

"They're willing to walk onto your property, go through your stuff, and take things and it's a really uncomfortable feeling," she said.



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The Provincial Service Officer will be visiting the Thorold Legion, Branch 17, on Nov. 2, 3 & 4, 2022.

Any Veteran wishing an appointment with the provincial service officer should contact the Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion Branch 124 office at 905-468-2353.

Still time to sign up for Christmas **tractor parade**

Molly Bowron
The Lake Report

Mark your calendar for the Christmas tractor parade – it rolls back into Virgil on Dec. 15 at 6 p.m.

"We're doing it in Virgil again. That's kind of the hub of our farming community," said Dorothy Soo-Wiens, who organized the inaugural event last year with her husband Erwin.

"That's where they buy their products from, their fertilizers and all that. It's kind of the grassroots of farming."

She said the route is the same as last year and will start at the arena in Virgil.

From there it will travel Four Mile Creek Road, past Pleasant Manor, onto Eldon Road, left on Line 1 Road, across Niagara Stone Road to Concession 4, then Line 2, and finally

back to the arena.

With planning underway, Soo-Wiens said, "Right now we've got about 30 tractors, friends and farmers that are excited and they're already planning on how they're going to decorate their tractors."

Anyone who has a tractor and wants to be involved is welcome and can contact her by email at erwinanddorothywiens@gmail.com.



Tractors decorated in lights will roll through Virgil on Dec. 15. FILE

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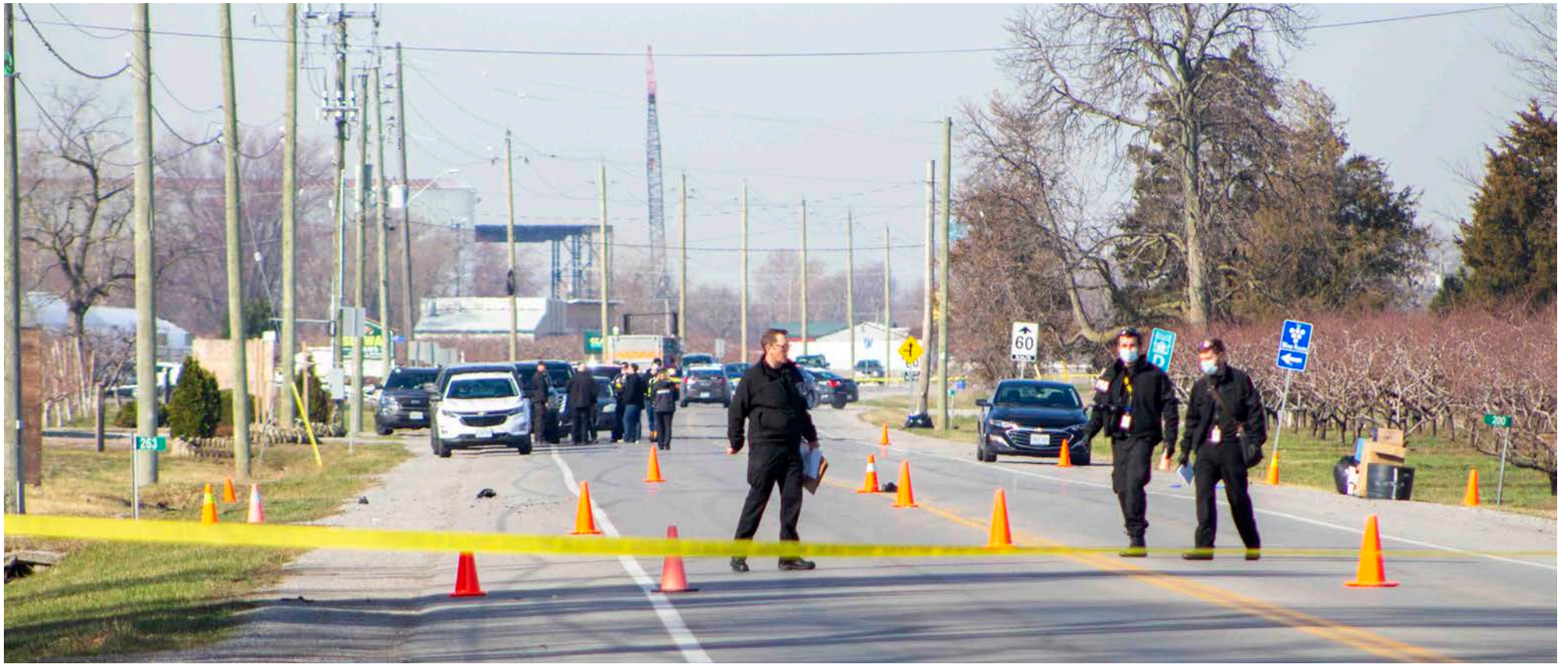
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On the morning of April 5, 2021, Niagara Regional Police investigate at the scene of the Lakeshore Road collision that killed pedestrian Matthew Wilson. RICHARD HARLEY/FILE

‘Maybe I suspected’ it was a person, Enns tells court

Continued from Front Page

truck was reasonable and accurate.

The Crown and defence had starkly differing views on those points.

Because he thought he’d hit a deer, Enns said he didn’t report the incident until the next morning, about eight hours afterward.

Early on that Monday, after seeing the damage was more serious than it looked at night, reading a post on Niagara 411’s Twitter feed about a police investigation into a fatality on Lakeshore Road and receiving a phone call from his daughter asking about the road closure on Lakeshore, Enns said he called police.

He said this all happened almost simultaneously and prompted his call to police.

Defence lawyer Vijai Singh told the court this showed Enns had reported the accident “forthwith.”

Crown prosecutor Henry Limheng argued that Enns’ testimony was “filled with inconsistencies and self-interest” and that he was being “wilfully blind to the extent of the damage” to his truck.

He also questioned Enns’ credibility in coming up with a damage estimate that “was just under” the \$2,000 total, which would have required him to report the

incident right away.

At his trial last week, Enns testified he thought he had hit a deer, but admitted to Limheng that he also feared he might have struck a person.

“To be honest, maybe I suspected” it was a person he had hit, Enns said, but emphasized that in the dark he saw “a tannish, brown form” he thought was a deer.

“Enns’ testimony was ‘filled with inconsistencies and self-interest.’”

HENRY LIMHENG
CROWN PROSECUTOR

The collision occurred as Wilson was walking east toward NOTL along the unlit south shoulder of Lakeshore.

Enns, driving his black Ford F-150 pickup, was headed to his home nearby on Irvine Road, about 1.5 kilometres from the scene.

He had been out for dinner earlier that evening and said he was returning from his girlfriend’s home in St. Catharines.

He said he had one glass of wine a few hours before the crash.

Niagara Regional Police

Det.-Const. Ryan Dool testified that Enns was “very co-operative” during the investigation and that his truck sustained extensive damage to the front end on the passenger side.

The court also heard a 22-minute recording of an interview with Enns conducted by Det.-Sgt. Brian Essery the morning after the fatal collision.

Enns told Essery he saw “a dark shape, just a glimpse” and was sure it was the “hind quarter of a deer,” which are common in the area.

It all happened in an “instant,” he said. “It came out of nowhere, in my lane.”

During his testimony in provincial offences court, Enns said, “I was very shook up” and “in a frazzled state” after the collision.

Enns said he immediately stopped, got out of his truck and tried to determine what he hit.

“It was dark. I couldn’t see,” he testified.

He said he saw some debris from his truck, illuminated by his one working headlight, including pieces from a broken passenger side headlight and fog lamp.

He said he didn’t see Wilson, nor any evidence he had struck a person. He told Limheng he didn’t see a shoe or other items that investigators later found on the road.

About 7:20 the next morning, a passerby discovered Wilson’s body in the southside ditch, which is three to four feet deep, Dool told the court.

Court was shown a dark, grainy, black and white surveillance video captured by a security camera at Seaway Farms, at Stewart and Lakeshore roads.

In the video, lightened by the Crown to enhance visibility, for a few seconds around 10:26 p.m. a person can be seen walking eastward along Lakeshore.

Eight minutes later, at 10:34 p.m., what looks like a pickup truck passes Seaway. Twenty seconds later, well off-camera, a thud can be heard.

The Crown’s video evidence appeared to support some of Enns’ testimony.

Several minutes into the recording, a westbound pickup truck stops on Lakeshore and a figure can barely be seen getting out of the vehicle and looking around for about 90 seconds.

The truck then slowly heads eastward on Lakeshore, just before 10:42 p.m.

In his testimony, Enns said that right after stopping the first time, he got back in his truck, made a U-turn and with his high-beam headlights on drove westward in the middle of

a deserted Lakeshore Road looking for more evidence of what he might have hit.

Near Stewart Road he stopped again, which is the scene captured on video.

Enns testified that when he stopped the second time, he used the flashlight from his mobile phone to look around and to inspect the damage to his truck.

Based on his experience as the operator of a large farming business, with many vehicles, he told the court he thought the damage was about \$1,500 and “maybe something I could fix myself.”

In the pitch dark, using his phone flashlight, he thought he had some broken lights and maybe other minor damage, Enns said.

The Crown introduced estimates from body shops ranging from about \$5,500 to more than \$10,000.

But Singh argued those estimates, done in 2022, more than a year after the crash, were based on looking at well-lit photographs taken by police.

He suggested that if the estimators had viewed the truck damage in the dark, as Enns did, they would have come to a different conclusion.

The pickup was eventually repaired by Enns’ insurer at a cost of \$10,500, court was told.

In the defence’s final submission, Singh said his client reported the collision “forthwith and forthrightly.”

Enns fully co-operated with police and came to the “reasonable” conclusion that he had hit a deer, Singh said.

The defence also argued that the next morning, seeing more damage in the light of day, Enns “called it in immediately.”

“That’s forthwith,” Singh said.

Limheng told Welland Justice of the Peace Mary Shelley that Enns didn’t do everything he could have on the road that night to assess the damage and to fulfil his duty to report the incident.

He accused Enns of determining the damage with “one eye covered” and said if he “genuinely” wanted to know what he had hit, he would have used his mobile phone’s flashlight to inspect the scene more thoroughly.

No date has yet been set for Shelley to deliver her verdict in the case.

After Thursday’s day-long trial, a team of court officials spent more than 30 minutes trying to find a mutually agreeable date before finally deciding to hold a case management session on Oct. 25 at which the date for judgment will be determined.

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'When minutes count seconds matter'

Fire Prevention Week focuses on planning your escape

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Fire won't wait. Plan your escape.

That's this year's theme for the 100th annual Fire Prevention Week from Oct. 9 to 15.

"So the basic concepts of that (theme) are to create a fire safety plan within your own home for your family," said deputy chief Jay Plato of Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services.

It's important to have a plan in place in case of any emergencies, including carbon monoxide and other emergencies, he said.

"When minutes count seconds matter and if you don't have a plan to be able to get out of your house properly, it can go sideways on you pretty quickly," Plato said.

According to a StatCan study conducted between 2011 and 2020, there were about 220 fire-related deaths in Canada each year during that decade. Eight out of 10 of those fatalities were from accidents.

In the same study, residential fires accounted for 92 per cent of unintentional fire-related deaths. More than twice the number of residential fire-related



From left, deputy fire chief Jay Plato, fire prevention officer Brad Disher and deputy fire chief Darren Trostenko stand outside of the St. Davids fire station. SOMER SLOBODIAN

deaths occurred in the winter compared to the summer.

"The smallest thing can make a difference between life and death," said Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

"We should be doing things that protect us and protect our firefighters. Because they're the ones that have to go into a fire to save us," she added.

A fire plan is all about communication. Plato said it's good to have a designated meeting place, like at a lamp post outside the house, and have someone in charge of calling 911.

If you have pets, he said it's good to have someone in charge of getting those pets to safety.

"Just having a plan is basically the key message there. Knowing what to do will benefit you greatly," he said.

According to the National Fire Prevention Association, cooking is the leading cause of home fires, responsible for roughly 49 per cent of all reported home fires involving cooking equipment. And unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires.

That is why smoke detectors are so important and should be checked regularly.

It's good to know if your smoke detector has a dead battery and what it sounds like going off. Plato recommends that people check their alarms monthly.

Since every alarm should have a test button, all people have to do is hit the button and the alarm will go off for 10 to 15 seconds. This allows them to check if it's working and to get used to the sound.

It's good to do these tests with the whole family, so

everyone can know what it sounds like, Plato said.

In case of an emergency, everyone in the family will be recognize the sound and then the evacuation plan can begin to safely exit the home.

"Practice makes perfect at the end of the day. Practise it a couple times a year. It shouldn't be a shock or a surprise as to what happens if that alarm ever goes off because of a real emergency," he said.

For Fire Prevention Week, Plato said the department is hoping to get out in front of grocery

stores and local hardware retailers to chat with people and spread the message about fire prevention.

"Fire drills will be conducted in most of the schools across Niagara-on-the-Lake, so we'd like to participate and go and just watch those happen," he said.

Plato, along with Darren Trostenko, have been acting fire chiefs on a rotating basis since Nick Ruller stepped down as fire chief earlier this year.

The department has been doing well, said Plato.

"We're just continuing on with all of the positive momentum and positive motion that we had," he added.

The town is going through the hiring process for the chief position, Disero said in an email to The Lake Report.

It's important to remember that all of NOTL's firefighters are volunteers and work hard to keep everyone safe and educated, Plato said.

"It really is a community that helps maintain our fire service and by people doing their part and making sure their fire safe. It really helps in general to ensure we can maintain the volunteer fire model," he said.

Seasonal worker struck by vehicle is recovering

Continued from Front Page

on Oct. 6, farmworker advocate Jane Andres told The Lake Report.

Reid, a seasonal worker from Jamaica, works at P.G. Enns Farms in Niagara-on-the-Lake, she said.

"(He) was returning on his bicycle from the Laundry Tub on Carlton Street," Andres said.

Some farmworkers transport their laundry by bike from rural NOTL to St. Catharines because not all farms have washing machines for workers to use, she said.

It is unclear if Reid was carrying his laundry when he was struck. A Niagara Regional Police report

had few details about the incident.

"I heard from his co-workers that he went to get his laundry," Andres said in an email.

"He may have gone to the bank and then was on his way to the laundromat," she added.

Police spokesperson Const. Philip Gavin said in a statement, "There is no information in the report to indicate the cyclist was a farmworker with laundry."

P.G. Enns Farms did not respond to phone messages and several emails with questions from The Lake Report.

A reporter who visited the farm on Irvine Road on Wednesday was asked to leave the property.

It is not known if P.G. Enns has laundry facilities for its workers.

According to the contract for the employment in Canada of commonwealth Caribbean seasonal agricultural workers, farms owners must either have laundry facilities or "provide weekly transportation to a laundromat at no cost to the worker."

Coun. Erwin Wiens, who operates a grape farm in NOTL, said, "As part of our inspection, we have to have laundry facilities on-site or (we) have to give them weekly transportation to a laundromat."

That applies to every farmer who employs temporary foreign workers, he said.

Andres said Reid was taken to a hospital in Hamilton after the incident and underwent surgery there. He was later transferred to St. Catharines.

"I've been worried about the risks they are taking ever since I heard they had to go so far to use the laundromat about eight years ago," Andres said.

Virgil no longer has a laundromat, she said.

The 27-year-old driver of the car that hit Reid, a woman from Thorold, was charged with careless driving under the Highway Traffic Act, said Gavin.

Her vehicle sustained about \$2,000 in damage, he said.

Town wants to protect old Cobbler's House from being torn down

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The list of heritage properties in Niagara-on-the-Lake may be getting a little longer after council voted to assess the old Cobbler's House for historical significance.

The property at 329 Victoria St. is for sale for \$1.7 million as a possible tear-down for a "dream home" and is not on the town's official list of heritage properties.

"I sure would not like to see the Cobblers House torn down," Lord Mayor Betty Disero said.

Town planning direc-

tor Kirsten McCauley told council the request to list the property should go to the municipal heritage committee so the property can be investigated for its historical significance.

Coun. Gary Burroughs pointed out that getting it on the heritage list would not necessarily prevent it from being torn down.

"Not to be naive to think that it's going to save the building, we're doing the best we can," he said.

Council voted unanimously to instruct staff to investigate the historical value of the property and get back to council as soon as possible.



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

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 43
Region active cases: 773
Region deaths: 619
Region total cases: 46,703

**Oct. 12 data per Niagara Region Public Health. Public health warns that "Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, limited availability of testing, and changes to case and contact management practices, case counts shown (above) are an underestimate of the true number of individuals in Niagara with COVID-19. Data should be interpreted with caution." Case data for municipalities is also now being interpreted in 28-day cycles.*



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"The key to self-generated happiness (the only reliable kind) is to refuse to take oneself too seriously." - Tom Robbins

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Skeletons in the glove box



Lake Report photographer Dave Van de Laar captured this photo of some Halloween decorations in old trucks parked on Lakeshore Road.

Editorial

Have your say on NOTL's future

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

Wrapped around this week's 28-page edition of The Lake Report is a Special Edition dedicated to informing you, our readers, about the major issues in the Oct. 24 municipal election – and the candidates who are seeking your support.

It is no coincidence that the main headline on page 1 of the 20-page Special Edition is "NOTL votes on its future."

Those words were chosen very purposefully – because modern-day Niagara-on-the-Lake is indeed at a crossroads and this election gives you, as a voter, the opportunity to have a loud voice in what that future holds.

We are facing unprecedented budget, development and tourism pressures, to name just a few key concerns.

But that doesn't mean NOTL is about to become another Niagara Falls, with a Clifton Hill-type atmosphere. (That's fine for the Falls, but Niagara-on-the-Lake deserves to be and must be something special.)

And you have the chance to have your say on Oct. 24.

Immediately inside the 20-page Special Edition on Page S3 you will find an editorial outlining what The Lake Report has identified as some of the important issues facing Niagara-on-the-Lake.

These are our views, for your consideration.

No doubt others can come up with more or have differing ideas about what needs to be done.

That's fine and a healthy feature of our democratic process.

Regional taxes, development, tourism and short-term rentals are just some of the key concerns from our perspective.

The edition also includes in-depth interviews by columnist Brian Marshall, who spoke to the three mayoral candidates about their views on protecting NOTL's unique character.

As well, David Israelson offers advice on the big picture surrounding this election.

And Queenston's Ron Fritz does a deep dive on the idea of a ward system for NOTL, an issue first broached by The Lake Report when the campaign began.

This is all pertinent because the sleepy, laid-back village that many NOTLers wish Niagara-on-the-Lake would return to is no more. It's 2022 and what some like to call the "good old days" are a distant memory.

What is most important as Niagara-on-the-Lake voters consider who can best serve the town's needs over the next four, or more, years, is that we all take the time to learn about what the various candidates are offering to do for our fair town.

Getting people to pay attention and to engage with politics at the municipal level is a tough assignment.

Oddly, voter engagement usually is inverse to the relative influence people have over the outcome.

At the federal or provincial level, where voter turnout tends to be higher, your ballot is meaningful, of course. But yours is among tens of thousands of votes cast in a riding and you're electing a representative who is a member of a political party that may (or may not) form the government.

Your say in what happens in the future is not nearly as direct as it is when voting for lord mayor or town

council or school board. It's not glamorous, but it is deeply meaningful.

It's often said that all politics is local and frankly that is most true at the municipal level, where a few thousand votes are cast and you have a very real chance to influence the outcome.

We would argue the best way to do so is to be informed, engaged and interested. Read, listen to and speak to the people campaigning for your vote. Cut through the noise and chatter.

That's one of the main reasons why we produced our Election 2022: Special Edition. It offered candidates the chance to advertise their positions, and in their own words, speak about what they think is important to NOTL and its future.

Almost every candidate chose to be part of the Special Edition, though a few declined mainly because they had reached their campaign spending limit.

So, please, take the time, get informed, but above all, vote.

Monday, Oct. 24, is your best chance to have your say about NOTL and its future. editor@niagaranow.com

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Unapproved official plan puts NOTL in **dangerous spot**

Dear editor:

All the NIMBY (not in my backyard) advocates and all those who believe Banana (build absolutely nothing anywhere near anything) is a sober reality in today's world, should rise and thank the current Niagara-on-the-Lake council for not yet having an approved, independently strong official plan.

Council adopted the official plan in 2019 but does not have the authority to approve it – despite what Lord Mayor Betty Disero says in her election brochure, which is completely untrue and misleading.

Not having an approved official plan has put the future of Niagara-on-the-Lake on a precarious footing.

What was likely an issue

that got the lord mayor and many councillors elected last time, should now be more closely scrutinized, so the future of NOTL does not crumble under simple political motivations for some to get re-elected, especially when you hear the same messaging over and over again directed to the NIMBY and Banana groups.

NOTL has never been more vulnerable to the ever-looming clouds of provincial authority over local development.

The province has clearly stated it will escalate its control over development under the guise of housing affordability. And a planned Oct. 25 provincial announcement could put NOTL in a dire spot

because its official plan remains unapproved.

Even when, or, if the new plan is approved, it could be subject to numerous appeals, leaving NOTL exposed for an even longer period into the future.

A lot of bad development can occur while the failures associated with not having an approved official plan bounce through the jungle of uncontrolled litigation and a provincially controlled tribunal process.

During this time of great uncertainty, NOTL will be exposed to extraordinary and unprecedented levels of imposing new development plans, and the dwindling of rights to independent governance as a unique little town.

In the private sector, we call this an opportune time



to clean house. We all have a collective opportunity to protect the future of NOTL and also without the anticipated chronic litigation resulting from a yet-to-be-approved official plan.

Career politicians, under the careful watch of the NIMBY and Banana groups, are inherently un-

able to get an official plan approved to stop undesired developments, so by default they resort to hiding behind litigation at the cost of taxpayers.

So, it is clear from an objective perspective, one should not vote for ineffective career politicians, but try voting for someone

with a proven success track record of effective management experience, who sincerely wishes to manage a collaborative council team that will have a better and likely most honest chance of achieving a straightforward objective: a strong official plan that will preserve the future of NOTL.

We don't need another four years of ineffective, litigious fighting in this town and listening to hollow NIMBY and Banana promises.

Vote for a greater certainty of achieving a strong and permanently protected NOTL future, without constantly arguing and fighting. That's why I support Vaughn Goettler for mayor.

Peter Rusin
St. Davids

Treated **unfairly** and maligned, is why developer is fighting back

Dear editor:

In response to the Sept. 29 letter by Judy McLeod ("Marotta defender ignores basic facts in Randwood conflict"), I'd like to point out she has conveniently ignored basic facts.

In most legal battles, both sides believe they're protecting their rights or doing the right thing. Benny Marotta and his companies would like to develop properties they own, while some town politicians and residents are trying to prevent that from happening.

Marotta, who has an extensive history of building, feels he has been treated unfairly.

After Betty Disero essentially campaigned for mayor on stopping his plans in the last election, one should understand why he feels this way. He was demonized and targeted for the benefit of a politician's ambition to get elected.

Marotta's companies and planners have followed the application processes as any developer must do. They have a vision for what they believe would be a lucrative and luxurious hotel on the property.

They also want to build

a subdivision and have applied for both. Whether you share that vision or not isn't really the issue at heart.

However, the "fact" the letter writer is missing is that when someone wants to do something on their property and they are being challenged at every turn, the only recourse is to fight back.

Would the letter writer roll over and accept bureaucratic decisions if they were being made about their property? Would she accept the constant onslaught of smears and lies being passed around about her reputation and character?

On the reverse side – should the town bow out because a wealthy developer has the funds to fight forever. Probably not.

But it doesn't really matter what any of the two sides think. In the end, what's legal matters.

The writer would like people to think that in order to be a good citizen, Mr. Marotta should have sat down and shut up and dealt with whatever the town wanted him to do.

It's not a fair expectation and dragging someone's name through the mud be-

cause you don't agree with their vision of the future is bullying.

The Marotta family has made generous donations to Niagara College, built a world-class winery in NOTL that attracts people to spend money here. They have also planted dozens of trees at both the winery and Rand Estate, and likely will be planting more at the new Stone Eagle Winery when it's built.

Now that the court has sided with Marotta in the latest legal challenge, will the letter writer view the town's lawsuit as a "wanton and deliberate" attempt to paint Marotta as the enemy, or will she defend the town?

I, and others, applaud Mr. Marotta for not backing down. If SORE and Disero hadn't pushed so hard to fight his developments, the lawsuits would not have been initiated. They started it.

Marotta is an experienced developer. Our politicians knew he would challenge the town's fight against him. Anyone who expected him to cave is disconnected from reality.

Those are the facts.
Sil Ranucci
NOTL

I **trust** mayor's judgment and approach

Dear editor:

In the Oct. 6 edition of The Lake Report, letter writer Peter Rusin complains of Lord Mayor Betty Disero's anger at Vaughn Goettler's insults to her ("Goettler's approach preferred to mayor's combative style").

The latter is running for the top job without any governance credentials.

Litigation was brought on the town by developers who wished to destroy our heritage (a major focus for most tourists) and a neighbour who it was thought may



Betty Disero.

have been trying to increase their capacity while denying inspection.

Despite Rusin's insults and fear-mongering, Disero reports "our" town council's achievements and a path of

more to be done.

She has led our five villages and our vital farmland well through the pandemic and many crises over the past few years.

Just read her instructive and truthful reports.

We can hold our heads high and will not be taken over by the region other or any other entity.

I trust the mayor's judgment and collaborative approach for good governance for us all.

Dr. Elizabeth
Oliver-Malone
NOTL

NOTL's values are about **more than dollars**

Dear editor:

Not often do I get to respond to a twofer, but the letter from Peter Rusin of St. Davids ("Goettler's approach preferred to mayor's combative style," Oct. 6), a former failed mayoral candidate in Burlington, brings a fresh new perspective to Niagara-on-the-Lake politics.

As he stated in his own previous mayoral campaign, "I bring a skill set that is superior to anybody in Burlington and most of the GTA or Ontario to take this city from a stagnant position to one that's going to grow

and evolve."

Yup, after years and years of real estate consultation he sure knows how to foster commercial and residential development (Burlington Post, Oct. 14, 2014).

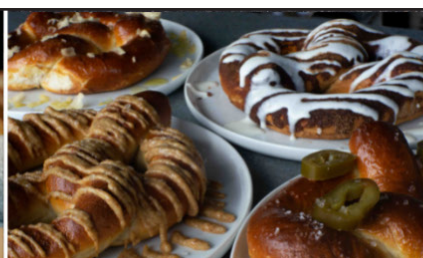
Begin by supporting someone totally unfamiliar with municipal governance for lord mayor and then suggest that the two developers who have sued the town (and lost) because the current administration stood up to them (Rainer Hummel and Benny Marotta) are just misunderstood good guys who only want what's good for Niagara-on-the-Lake.

And when he goes on to suggest we should all just play nice with them, he is being either totally naive, or worse.

No, Mr. Rusin, look around at the town you have moved to and you might recognize this is not Oakville or Burlington, but rather a historic village where values mean more than dollars and people count more than "business."

And, wow! Fear-mongering that the province is going to disband Niagara-on-the-Lake?

Bob Bader
NOTL



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The recently opened Niagara Parks Tunnel. SUPPLIED

High praise for Niagara's beautiful parks and the Tunnel at power station

Dear editor:

Most newspaper letters complain about this and that.

Let's look at what we have in our lovely town and surrounding areas.

My wife Irene and I have a parking pass for the Niagara Parks at a cost about \$40.

We use it every week, Brock park, the butterfly gardens, Niagara Falls and others.

These Niagara parks and many others all are kept beautiful. The parks we see driving from Niagara-on-the-Lake through Niagara Falls and on to Fort Erie are so well maintained, clean, the grass and trees groomed.

We are so lucky to have such a dedicated organization to provide such beauty.

We thought we had seen it

all. Then today we drove to the recently opened Tunnel at the Niagara Parks Power Station.

Wow, it's the most spectacular afternoon we have experienced.

The old hydro-electricity plant by the Falls is open and the unique displays of the old workings is wonderful to see and it explains how the first water-powered plant worked.

Then we took the elevator down some 300 feet to the brick tunnel that was used to rush the water back downriver from the Falls.

You walk along this for quite a way until you are level with the river with views of both falls. Unbelievable.

I'll stop here. Words cannot explain the experience.

Keith Williams
NOTL

What's the plan to curb over tourism?

Dear editor:

Worldwide we have witnessed vibrant cities, towns, whole cultures and economies destroyed by overtourism enthusiasts.

Niagara-on-the-Lake is on this slippery slope as our Chamber of Commerce, tourist board, merchants etc. are intoxicated with methods and travel routes to attract and ferry more tourists into NOTL, particularly the heritage district.

In short, tourism per se has not improved, one iota, the quality of life for the residential taxpayer.

The present and former councils, plus our town officials, for decades have

refused or are incompetent in coming up with solving one of the major overcrowding issues: Parking.

As we approach the Oct. 24 election, there is still no plan. So, where will all the additional tourism traffic park?

Few would disagree that tourism is critical to our town's economy. Fewer would disagree that a tourism plan, if we have one, comes close to protecting and preserving our cultural heritage.

We read of these concerns in our newspapers weekly but, sadly, our voices are falling on deaf ears.

Take for example the

exodus of hundreds of residents, both old and new, from our town during the housing price boom for this very reason.

A small number upsized or downsized and stayed in NOTL.

Others got out of dodge. They did not like the overcrowding making life as we knew it unbearable.

New residents regularly express their disappointment with their expectations after moving here, as opposed to their impressions as a visitor.

Many leave quoting: "I do not wish to live here long term nor make this my retirement destination."

This is a sad indictment of the changes we are experiencing in our town and these sentiments will have a long-term effect as they get passed along.

Are we at or close to a tourism saturation point yet? Is there a plan to address the knock on effect of overtourism, not only regarding the parking problem but other infrastructure issues?

More importantly, should the taxpayers not be appalled of such actions and any attendant contingency plans? Transparency and all that.

Samuel Young
NOTL

Trying to make sense of important town issues

Dear editor:

I am trying to connect the dots on a few issues but am having difficulty doing so.

Take the current election as an example. The Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre is there to serve the community.

Many candidates, under a democratic political process, are running for NOTL council seats to serve the community. But an event to enable the citizens of NOTL to be informed of what the candidates propose if they are elected is not allowed at the community centre "because it is a political event."

So help me to understand the local logic here – and is anyone thinking?

Another example:

Short-term cottage rentals.

Residential areas have been developed in town as places for residents. Now these "R-zoned" areas are being increasingly occupied by commercial businesses disguised as short-term cottage rentals.

Many neighbours in these residential areas no longer have neighbours. Instead, they have businesses next door to them.

The town (council and staff) believe the solution to what many residents see as a major issue is to write stiffer bylaws with more enforcement.

The problem is, the right question hasn't been asked. That is, "Do we want to continue to see the continued growth and existence of commercial businesses in

designated residential areas or not?"

Why can't we develop specific commercial areas in town for these commercial short-term cottage rentals? It would be helpful if underlying policies are addressed before the regulatory and enforcement cards are played.

One more – Important policy issues for this election: During the candidate meetings, there seemed to be much attention to parking issues.

This one I do understand because parking is something that everyone is familiar with and for which each wants to share their opinion.

However, there has been little discussion on more complex issues such as the

future of the town and the seniors and others who live here, balancing residential, commercial and tourism development, sustainable financing, having an appropriate level of taxes (probably higher and not lower) to afford the services we demand, town and region relationship and cost sharing, town council and staff relationship and power, available health services, and other longer-term and important policy issues.

With the Oct. 24 municipal election, now is the perfect time to press the candidates on the important future policies and issues for the town, some of which are touched on above.

Bill Garriock
NOTL

Incumbent mayor was responsive and took action

Dear editor:

We are headed into the last weeks of the municipal election campaign and we think it is important to reflect on the significant influence of Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

In our experience with Disero over the last seven years that we have lived here in Niagara-on-the-Lake (including her four-year term as mayor and previous four years as a councillor), is that whenever we raised a concern with her, she responded to us if not that same day, then always within 24 hours.

And it was not a pat answer, like, "I will look into it and get back to you." It was an "I've taken concrete action" answer. That's what you get by re-electing her.

I cannot see this degree of dedication, experience, sincere interest and just pure accessibility being possible with any of the other candidates for lord mayor, either because they would be a part-time mayor as they already have a full-time job in the real estate industry, or they have no previous municipal government experience,

or they have winter homes outside of Canada.

The mayor of a uniquely historic, small town like Niagara-on-the-Lake takes a special mixture of dedication, knowledge, experience and, most of all, heart. And we feel Betty has demonstrated that over the last eight years.

She has always been the first line of defence in protecting our natural beauty and heritage assets against Brampton-style development. She has shown no fear in going up against these developers.

In addition, NOTL is very fortunate to have someone with the extraordinary wealth of political and government experience that Disero has brought to our town from having earned her stripes in similar situations in Toronto.

She has proven through her service that she has the residents' interests at heart but still makes decisions that benefit all sectors of our local economy. We all win by re-electing Betty Disero.

Anna Protheroe
Robert Hagan
NOTL



Betty Disero at the chamber debate. FILE/EVAN LOREE

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Professional baseball's sad **lack of sportsmanship**

Dear editor:

It happened again this past weekend as Major League Baseball began its annual march to the World Series by staging four mini-series for the wild card qualifiers.

In each series, the final game produced the same reactions: the winning team dancing around in celebration, throwing on their winning T-shirts and hats, while the losers sat in their dug-out, watching forlornly in despair for several minutes before turning and trooping into their dressing rooms to "drown their sorrows."

Of the four major sport leagues in North



America, baseball is the only one where there never is an exchange of congratulations when all is said and done.

In the National Football League, after pummeling each other into the gridiron for a solid 60 minutes, players always congratulate/console one another post-game by shaking hands and often embracing their opponents.

In the National Basketball Association, after going "toe-to-toe" for 48 minutes, elbowing one another and throwing their weight around, the players always congratulate/console one another afterward by shaking hands and also often embracing their opponents.

Even the National Hockey League, during the playoff season, after a series of punishing body checks, high sticks and sometimes "fisticuffs," always form lines and wish the winners the best of success in the next round.

Why can't MLB follow suit?

Amateur ballplayers, from the Timbits level to super seniors slo-pitch teams always form a handshake line after each game, often exchanging high fives with their opponents.

Why can't the professionals, who are watched and admired by millions of fans from youngsters to old-timers, not set a good example by doing likewise?

This strikes me as so sad, so pathetic, so disappointing and so disgusting.

When will the MLB top brass finally see the light and correct this gross lack of good sportsmanship?

Ted Wiens
Virgil

We need a council that's **in touch** with NOTL's needs

Dear editor:

We have been reviewing all the comments made by candidates for mayor and town councillor and weighing my options very carefully, particularly for the position of lord mayor.

Recent comments by candidate Vaughn Goettler clearly show he has not lived in this area for any length of

time and must believe that no one else has either.

He states, "We have to be careful where we pick to live," when weighing in on concert noise from wineries and seems to believe that they were here first.

With the exception of a very few, the wineries did not arrive until the early 1990s.

Prior to the winery invasion one could enjoy the most peaceful, quiet evenings.

Apparently the wineries don't make enough revenue just selling wine so they have to bump it up with loud outdoor concerts.

And let's not even get into the barrage of 15-minute fireworks noise.

We need a council that can remember what the town once was, where it has improved and where it has not improved.

We're not too sure if it is fixable at this stage but at least it may be worth a try.

Marlene and Wayne Penner
NOTL



Mental Health Day was Oct. 10 — but you can talk about it any day.



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Changing from Queen to King and where will it stop?



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
The Lake Report

Our much loved Queen has died and I have come to realize the ubiquity of the word Queen. Yes, that word is everywhere, in so many areas of our Canadian lives. I have previously opined that the "the only thing that never changes is that things always change."

On the very day our Queen Elizabeth II died, familiar traditions started to change. Respected lawyers in Canada have already changed the QC designation after their names to KC.

They were appointed by the Attorney General of Canada, for outstanding contributions to our legal profession

Hope they don't get confused with the '70s group

KC and the Sunshine Band, who treated us to "That's the Way (I Like It)" and "Shake Your Booty."

And how about Freddie Mercury and Queen? He was born Farrokh Bulsara and chose the name Queen because it was very regal and obviously sounded splendid.

As an aside, as well as not being afraid to dress differently, Mercury had a five-octave range. If you haven't seen the movie "Bohemian Rhapsody" yet, now is the time.

Henceforth, new citizens in Canada will swear an oath of allegiance to the King.

And, the Queen's Plate, held in June each year at Woodbine in Toronto, will be called the King's Plate. It is the oldest continually run horse race in North America and will eventually change its name. But not today or tomorrow. (It was called the King's Plate between 1901 and 1952.)

Queen Elizabeth II attended the Queen's Plate four times. Hopefully, she did OK with her wagers and made some new friends along the rail and



Dairy what? Ross Robinson asks just what names need changing, now that the Queen is dead. ROSS ROBINSON

on the backstretch.

How about street names in Niagara? We coincidentally have both a Queen Street and a King Street in the Old Town, as do St. Catharines and Toronto and countless other Canadian cities and towns.

No need to change the street signs, it seems. Our major highway from Toronto to Fort Erie bears her name. Kinda weird, eh?

King's Point condominiums and Queen's Landing Hotel? Will their names be secure as the years roll by?

Over in Kingston, how about the highly respected Queen's University? Just up the Niagara River, at the base of the escarpment, under Brock's Monument, the sleepy village of Queenston is awash with history.

And how about the queue in front of the Cow's ice

cream shop? Will the queue be called a kew in the future, as changes roll out? I know, I have to control my ramblings and queries.

Many name changes will be mandated by our federal government in Ottawa and others will hopefully be at the discretion of provincial, regional and municipal governments.

Oh boy, I can envision the never-ending debates

already as King Charles III struts his regal stuff. Are we going to love him, or just like him? For now, let's give him the benefit of the doubt, as he eases into his new job.

Should the owner of the now-under construction Dairy Queen downtown proactively change the store name to Dairy King? Just askin'.

God Save the King.



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EYE FOR ART

Diego Velázquez, 'Las Meninas'

Penny-Lynn Cookson
Special to The Lake Report

The social media world in which we live often casts an unwelcome light on the private lives of celebrities, including royals.

One of the highlights of the death and funeral of Queen Elizabeth II was a glimpse at previously private photographs, videos and stories of her life and family. We were charmed.

Such revelations to the public were never possible at the 17th-century Spanish Court of the Habsburg King Philip IV.

Now, 366 years later, we are intrigued by what is considered one of the greatest paintings in the history of art, Diego Velázquez's masterpiece "Las Meninas" (The Ladies-in-Waiting).

Gone are the formal poses of rigid Spanish court tradi-

tion, protocol and etiquette. Dignity and grandeur remain but Velázquez's figures have humanity, are more naturally portrayed than idealistic and we, the viewers, are witness to a greater intimacy of this court scene.

The setting is Velasquez's studio within the Royal Alcázar fortress, residence of the Habsburg dynasty.

The king's lifelong court painter and friend, Velázquez, stands in a self-portrait before a large canvas, palette in his left hand, long brush in his right hand, in a stop-action moment of contemplation as he looks outward at us and possibly at the models for the painting.

Light pours in from a window to the right, illuminating the figures in the foreground. In the background, the queen's chamberlain stands within

an open door, pushing back a curtain, allowing bright light to enter the studio.

Next to the door is a mirror with a reflection of a double portrait of King Philip IV and Queen Mariana of Austria. Is this a reflection of what is on the easel? Or is it the royal couple standing, observing the scene before them, as they are being painted?

In the centre, their five-year-old daughter, the Infanta Margarita Theresa, stands regally poised and looking directly to the viewer.

Her ladies-in-waiting, Las Meninas, accompany her. Maria Agustina Sarmiento offers the infanta a drink on a tray. Isabel de Velasco appears to curtsy as she looks outward.

Behind her, the infanta's chaperone, Marcela de Ulloa, chats with a body-guard almost hidden in



Diego Velázquez, "Las Meninas," 1656, oil on canvas, Museo del Prado, Madrid.

shadow. Two dwarfs stand to the right. They are the German, Mari Bárbola, and the Italian, Nicolas Pertusato who places his foot on the back of a sleepy guard dog, a Spanish mastiff, to nudge him to attention.

Rather than portray dwarfs in their court role to

amuse, Velázquez conveys their personalities and moods with compassion and even pathos.

This extraordinary masterpiece by the greatest painter of Spain's Golden Age has been the subject of innumerable books, studies and speculation. It is renowned for Velázquez's

superb portraits, his technical mastery of space and composition, his "spiritual" quality of light.

Others have sought more in the complexities of the work. Is it, as Foucault believes, a representation of a representation where the royal couple, only reflected in the mirror, are simultaneously present and absent?

Or is the mirror "a reflection of reality and a projection of the imagination" which, according to Carlos Fuentes, captures the spirit of Spain?

Balzac asks in "The Unknown Masterpiece" if we can ever fathom great art, and if truth and beauty can only be found in fragmentary details, so we will remain mystified by what lies beyond the mirror and the open door.

Penny-Lynn Cookson is an art historian and lecturer. See her six-week series, "Spanish Exceptionalism: The art of Spain from El Greco to Picasso," Oct. 27 to Dec. 1, on Zoom. Register with the RiverBrink Art Museum in Queenston.

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Youth Campus will fill educational gaps in a town with no high school

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



The new youth campus will be at the old Cornerstone Community Church. SUPPLIED

The people of Niagara-on-the-Lake have been without a high school for over 10 years, but a group of volunteers is hoping to fill the hole left behind by the closing of Niagara District Secondary School.

Self-described worker bee Caroline Polgrabia and other dedicated parents have been planning for much of the past decade to bring an alternative form of education to the community.

“I committed myself to the 10 years to see that when Grade 9 rolls around for my children that maybe there’ll be an option for them,” she told The Lake Report in an interview.

Polgrabia grew up in Niagara-on-the-Lake and attended Parliament Oak Public School and Niagara District Secondary, both of which are now closed.

The end of her dream may be in sight, but what it’ll look like, Polgrabia isn’t so sure.

Cornerstone Community Church in Virgil has offered her space in its old church on Niagara Stone Road to serve as a youth campus.

This was only possible after Cornerstone merged its congregation with that of Orchard Park Bible Church on Hunter Road.

Now that the space is available, Polgrabia and her fellow volunteers are looking for the community’s

input on what they would like to use the space for.

They will be holding their first information session Oct. 19 between 7 and 9 p.m. at the new youth campus in the old Cornerstone Church.

At this point, Polgra-

bia says they are ready to launch, but they’re not sure yet what the community would like to have.

“Here’s the space. What do you want inside of it?” she said.

People have been talking about a space for youth for a while, she said.

“We finally actually have that space now. So now we need help in designing it,” she adds.

She’s not sure what type of programming will be provided but has a few ideas.

“For my family, I think an after-school program would work really great,” she said.

Polgrabia suggested the space could be used for movie nights, TV show screenings or even for weekly yoga nights.

It is still a “question mark” for Polgrabia but the “sky’s the limit,” she said

“I would like to see a high school sooner rather than later,” said Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

Kids have endured a “very frustrating, isolating, depressing time,” as a result of COVID-19, she said.

“The more social experience and activity that they can get now, the much better our community will be,” she added.

Polgrabia wonders if education in Ontario still needs to involve “bricks and mortar” and if everything needs to be under one roof.

“I think we can really, really think differently about education delivery and certainly in a rural environment,” she said.

Thinking outside the box, Polgrabia wonders if the education system can include some virtual elements.

“There are lots of different ways that secondary education is being delivered,” she added.

She is a strong advocate for publicly funded education and hopes her children still get the opportunity to attend high school in her hometown.

I’m a leave the door open: Heritage sites welcome visitors for free



Willowbank is one of the sites open for tours Oct. 22 as part of the provincewide Doors Open program. SUPPLIED

Barbara Worthy
Special to The Lake Report

The welcome mat is being laid down again at many Niagara-on-the-Lake heritage sites and businesses for the return of the province-wide Doors Open program on Saturday, Oct. 22.

Doors Open is led by the Ontario Heritage Trust and each year communities across the province literally open the doors of local sites of interest for free public tours.

The program was launched in 2002 to create access, awareness and excitement about the

province’s heritage and to provide unique opportunities to explore and enjoy some of the most interesting places in Ontario cities, towns and villages.

Local sites participating all share historical, architectural, or cultural significance.

This year’s participants are the Niagara District Courthouse, Willowbank, Clare’s Harley-Davidson, Ravine Estate Winery, the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, Shaw Festival, St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, St. Mark’s Anglican Church, the Exchange

Brewery and the Niagara Apothecary.

Doors Open Niagara lets visitors step inside places they might have never seen or perhaps have known about for years but never actually walked through the doors.

The day-long program is co-ordinated by the NOTL Museum, which also is one of the participating sites.

“The last time we were able to do this in person was back in 2017,” said the museum’s managing director, Sarah Kaufman.

“During the COVID years many sites opted for a digital Doors Open, so

we’re thrilled to see the doors opening wide again this year.”

Site hours vary for all participating locations, so visitors are encouraged to check tour times and opening hours prior to visiting.

More details can be found at doorsopenontario.on.ca/ and click on Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Or for more information call the NOTL Museum at 905-468-3912.

The museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day. Winter hours are in effect from November to April, 1 to 5 p.m.


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NOTL restaurants serve up Thanksgiving meals

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Sometimes the idea of cooking an entire Thanksgiving meal can be daunting. Whether patrons were hoping to avoid the hassle or simply try something new, restaurants around Niagara-on-the-Lake offered takeout and dine-in options for Thanksgiving dinner again this year, easing holiday stresses for literally hundreds of people.

At the Gate House restaurant in Old Town, Treadwell Cuisine had takeout meals available beginning at noon Sunday outside the restaurant on Queen Street.

Assistant food and beverage manager Rachele Morgan and server Samantha Comeau greeted customers as they arrived to pick up their boxed meals.

"We received 136 orders," said Morgan. "They started prepping on Thursday up until today when they boxed everything up."

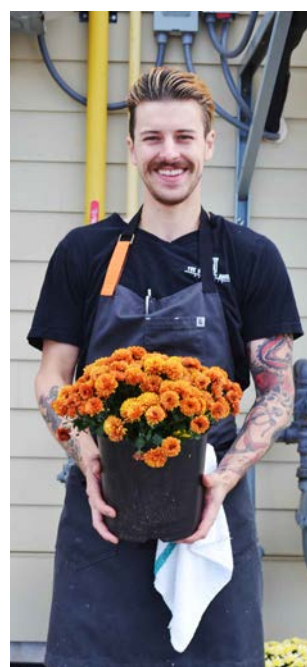
Customers chose takeout meals for a variety of reasons. Morgan recalled an order picked up for an older woman, unable to cook her own Thanksgiving dinner. The ready-to-heat meal saved the holiday tradition for someone in need.

With all of the hard work put into providing meals for the community, restaurant staff were still able to take time for themselves to enjoy the holiday.

The Garrison House restaurant offered a similar takeout experience as well as a dine-in option for dinner.

Line cook Freddie Gualtieri said he was happy to be with all of his co-workers during the busy time.

"We have a good fam-



Clockwise from top: Line cook Jonnathan Dubon prepares oat tarts for the Garrison House menu on Sunday, line cook Freddie Gualtieri shows off the free chrysanthemums given away with each Thanksgiving takeout meal at the Garrison House, Samantha Comeau and Rachele Morgan greet customers as they approach to collect their Thanksgiving takeout orders at the Gate House. Takeout from the Garrison House. JULIA SACCO

ily here. It's good to have everybody being together and working together on Thanksgiving," he said.

"We have a sit-down family dinner after the end of the day."

Silks Country Kitchen owner Joel Dempsey was busily working away all

weekend, serving traditional Thanksgiving dinners through Saturday and Sunday. By Sunday afternoon, they were almost sold out.

After such a busy weekend, restaurant staff – and owners – were thankful to have the holiday Monday

off for time with family and friends.

"I'll be spending Thanksgiving with my family. We are meeting tomorrow at my sister's house. It's rare that we can get everyone together and tomorrow is a good day for it," said Dempsey.



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: "And" so forth

This stretchy polyurethane fabric was introduced in the late 1950s.

Last issue: Dropping one of these on another person means you're informing on their criminal activities.

Answer: What is a dime?

Also accepted: Tip

Answered first by: Jane Morris

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Maria Janeiro, Pam Dowling, Bruce Robb, Patricia Kierans, Sheila Meloche, Jim Dandy

*REMEMBER TO PUT "WHAT IS" FOR JEOPARDY QUESTIONS!

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

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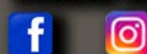


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Niagara Nursery School class of '73 all grown up

Continued from Front Page

in 2006. That's where we found her.

In the early '70s, she felt her first child, Christopher, needed some direction before he went off to his first elementary school class, at that point, just kindergarten, no junior or senior.

"I thought it was really important," said Howden. "He needed something, so that's how we got started."

"I don't remember how I got hold of a teacher, how I got hold of anything, really."

She admits she doesn't think about her early efforts much any more, but expressed some pride that the little organization has lasted 50 years. "It's good to think that something you started has really matured."

Like all the students of the time, Howden's son Chris has only vague, but warm memories of the school, which in its second year moved to Harmony Hall, a simple community centre in Chautauqua.

"I have a memory of tri-cycling right into a radiator and knocking a tooth out."

You can tell he's memory-diving beyond his comfort zone. "But I guess everybody remembers these little traumas."

Fifty years on, Chris Howden is co-host of CBC Radio's national nightly public affairs program, "As It Happens."

"I came up from the equivalent of the mail-room," he says. "Starting on 'As It Happens' in 2003, handling listener mail and other stuff. I just stayed, became a writer and now I'm co-host."

After nursery school he attended Parliament Oak, Niagara District Secondary School, the University of Toronto and finally Ryerson University (now Toronto Metropolitan University) for radio and television programming. Along the way, he spent some three years as a server at the Angel Inn.

Other mothers of the early students wanted their children to develop their social skills and meet other families.

Jennifer Steele remembers her mother saying she wanted her to become a



Top: One of the major efforts of the early Nursery School was participation in the annual Christmas Parade. Here, Ann-Marie Gill (left), then the school's only teacher, helps students Ruth Blamires (now Rawsthorne) and Chris Howden get in the festive spirit. SUPPLIED

Left: David and Donna Lailey were involved with the Niagara Nursery School in its formative days. DON REYNOLDS/FILE

Right: Chris Howden, co-host of CBC's "As it Happens," grew up in NOTL and attended the Niagara Nursery School. CBC PHOTO

social person.

"She was a single, working mom, one of the few back then. She probably just wanted to get rid of me for a few hours," she says with a healthy chuckle.

"It was great for my kids, too. They got involved with other kids socially."

Both Steele's sons, Harley Davidson (known better as Richard Harley, publisher

of The Lake Report) and James, now living in Calgary, attended the nursery school when it was at Parliament Oak school.

Steele, now living in St. Catharines, after stints in Mexico and Calgary, has worked her entire career in the hospitality industry. She served on the nursery school board of directors and wrote newsletters while

her children attended.

"I'm a Steele. My family's been here forever. My grandfather was a barber on the main street. We lived where the Stagecoach Restaurant is. A lot of those people in the picture have been my friends since then. Still great friends to this day."

The Laileys, Donna and David, had recently moved

to town, living on their farm property, just outside of town, on the Niagara Parkway, now known as.

"We didn't live in town," say the two well-known former vintners. "So, it was a big deal for us to get them in to mingle with other kids."

"It worked for David and me, too" says Donna. "We had just moved to town and wanted to meet people.

Most of the parents became friends, too."

Both the Lailey girls attended the early years of the school.

Like most of the young students, the elder Lailey, Jennifer, has only vague memories of the time.

"Apparently, I came home complaining that a student was bothering me," says Jennifer.

"My mother's response: 'Well, you need to fight your own battles.' So, the next day I got into trouble for hitting him."

Trained as a general practitioner, now practising as a psychotherapist, Jennifer lives with her family in Thunder Bay, Ont.

After public schools in Virgil and St. Catharines, she obtained her degrees at McGill and Queen's.

"I have great memories of Niagara, growing up on the farm. I felt fortunate that we could just wander. Lots of time outside. I can still remember the orchards, the plants and the smells."

Jennifer's sister Tonya has the same warm and fuzzy feelings about growing up in Niagara during the '70s.

"We were pretty free. We had to work on our farm. I remember in the summers we were able to go off on our bikes anywhere in town. We would go to McClelland's and get croissants. We were allowed to wander everywhere," she said.

"The town has a fairy-tale feeling about it. It's the trees and canopy. Those big old trees. And I see a certain kind of light, when I think of childhood."

"But I have no memories of the school. Only flashes and images. I do remember the class picture. I remember standing beside Chris Howden. And we were goofing around. Made a mess of the whole class picture."

Tonya plies an eclectic array of vocations from her current home in Calgary. She operates a wine agency peddling a variety of Canadian brands. She is a wine writer and recently completed a master of fine arts degree. She is working on her first novel.

Next: The Ahluwalia kids' fond memories.

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Healing Cycle: A two-wheeled personal journey

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

My original idea was to cycle around Prince Edward Island on the new Island Walk Trail, 700 kilometres of panoramic beauty along the backroads and inlets of our smallest province.

For the 10th year in a row, I was joining hundreds of other Ontario cyclists raising money in support of palliative care services around the province.

It's called the Healing Cycle.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake peloton (a French word for concentrated group of cyclists) is called The Pedal Pushers and we were planning a short one-day ride around Old Town, gathering pledges to back their kilometres.

A few riders, dotted around the province, opted to use the entire month of September, typically riding much longer distances in their own communities or elsewhere, to demonstrate and collect on their support for palliative care.

I chose the month-long option.

Ten years ago, my sister Terry Mactaggart, then program co-ordinator of our local palliative care service, asked me to join with a few sometime cyclists to raise money to strengthen the services of their volunteer organization.

The idea tugged at my heart. Just a few years earlier, my father and our family had been supported



A small crew of volunteers and supporters gather to celebrate the completion of Santa for Palliative Care's (aka Tim Taylor) month-long, 700-kilometre ride in support of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Palliative Care Service. From left around the semi-circle: John Roynon, William Roberts, Pat Balasiuk, Trish Anthony, Patty Garriock, Bill Garriock, Terry Mactaggart, Ron Balasiuk, Sandy Sampano and Lou Sguigna. Kathy Taylor, centre. And Santa and Bonnie Bagnulo, in front. SUPPLIED

by palliative care specialists, during his last days.

The first year was a modest effort, gathering a few thousand dollars largely from friends, family and a few community businesses.

The work of these volunteers (now 45 strong) is important.

The objective is simple: "We believe that the ending of a life deserves the same amount of attention, care and nurturing that the beginning of life does."

The team provides care, support, education, equipment and companionship to the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake and their families

facing the problems associated with life-threatening illnesses.

The Healing Cycle Foundation is a provincial organization. It supports participating palliative care organizations across Ontario by providing event and fundraising infrastructure and inspiration.

Its website declares: "The Healing Cycle Foundation funds and empowers the hospice palliative care community and champions the right of all Canadians to dignity, compassion and quality in end-of-life care."

The work of both organizations is inspiring.

Over the last decade Niagara riders have participated in many ways — provincewide in-person rides, community single day rides and virtual longer distance rides around the countryside.

In 2021, I set as my September goal, riding virtually to Quebec City, a distance of just over 1,000 kilometres.

After each local ride, I tracked the distance against the Google bike route to the Quebec capital, reaching the Chateau Frontenac on the last day of the month.

That year, for the first time, I adopted the Santa

for Palliative Care persona, dressed in red cycling gear from head to foot. The get-up became a recognized brand to many local drivers on the backroads of the region, honking horns in recognition of the effort.

Santa for Palliative Care was born some years earlier as another way to support the organization during the Christmas season. Santa makes appearances at gatherings of all kinds, in return for a charitable contribution to the local palliative care service.

This year, I planned to double-down, riding the actual trail in PEI, with my wife Kathy as my sag-wagon (backup support), cycling most mornings, becoming tourists in the afternoon.

It just wasn't to be.

September became quite crowded. After planning and booking all our rest stops and lobster dinners, it became clear that the month was filling up with must-do events — family weddings, anniversaries and so on.

But we were determined to make it to the east coast for at least the final three days of the month to ride the last portion of the trail back into Charlottetown.

So, once again, you could find me most days, pedalling an average of some 50 kilometres daily, trying not to be bored, looking for new routes to keep me interested, mentally solving life's challenges along the area's byways.

Arriving home, after a long soak, I blogged my

experiences, the distances, both real and virtual, posting whatever thoughts captured my mind during that day's ride.

I had no idea what to expect from the rustic PEI trail, so I needed to make sure I got up to 600 (of the 700) kilometres completed around home, before we headed east. In total I rode 38 hours or so around Niagara.

As the days flew by, everything began to add up — the donations, the kilometres and the excitement to complete the effort on the ground in Charlottetown.

Once again, it wasn't to be.

Hurricane Fiona literally shut the door to Prince Edward Island.

Our car was packed, the GPS programmed, the B&Bs booked ... an hour before we were set to depart, it all fell through.

We did finish. Late in the month, a small peloton of friends, rode the final few kilometres around town, arriving at the virtual finish line to cheers of palliative care volunteers and donors to the cause. It felt like Charlottetown, but there wasn't any lobster.

This year the Pedal Pushers, with the help of a matching donation from NOTL developer Rainer Hummel raised more than \$50,000.

Well worth the effort.

For more information about Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care go to notlpc.com.

Kinsmen honour Bob Forbes with roadside trash cleanup from Virgil to Old Town

Ken Slingerland
Special to The Lake Report

Twelve members of the Kinsmen Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake cleaned up Niagara Stone Road on Saturday, Oct. 1, collecting garbage from Henegan Road in Virgil to Anderson Lane in Old Town.

The cleanup blitz was in honour of Kinsmen life member Bob Forbes, who died of cancer earlier in the summer.

He initiated the service club's Adopt-a-Road program 10 years ago and chaired the cleanup until 2019.

The Niagara Region initiative is a public service program for citizen and volunteer organizations to pick up litter along approved regional Niagara roadsides.

It is a way for environmental-conscious citizens and community organizations to contribute to a cleaner and more beautiful

regional road system.

Over the past 10 years, many of the Kinsmen have donated their time to collect garbage along Hwy. 55 three times each year.

Club members have participated 30 times in total, even during COVID-19, accumulating a total of 1,440 community service hours.

They collect an average of 12 garbage bags full of litter each time, so over the past decade have removed some 360 bags of trash from

along the roadside.

The Kinsmen Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake was established in 1970 and members meet two times a month at the Kinsmen Scout Hall at 430 King St.

The Kinsmen members on hand for the Oct. 1 cleanup included Wig Baldauf, Alan Teichroeb, Fred Teichgraf, Mike Friesen, Ed Marcynuk, Bob Dick, Phil Bergen, Harold Dyck, Rod Konik, Ken Slingerland, Karl Evans and John Vanderlee.



Among the Kinsmen on hand for the Oct. 1 cleanup were, from left, Wig Baldauf, Alan Teichroeb, Fred Teichgraf, Mike Friesen, Ed Marcynuk, Bob Dick (kneeling), Phil Bergen, Harold Dyck, Rod Konik (kneeling) and Ken Slingerland. KARL EVANS PHOTO

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NOTL wine tour company teams with Costco to expand reach

Sarah Laughton
The Lake Report

A Niagara-on-the-Lake wine tour operator is teaming up with Costco to market its business across southern Ontario.

Grape Escape Wine Tours in Virgil will have gift cards available at seven Costco locations in the province, including Mississauga, Newmarket, Barrie, Barhaven, Kanata, Burlington and Lancaster.

“Costco reached out to us wanting to diversify their card selection in their stores and they wanted us as the wine tour representative,” said Richard Mell, co-owner of Grape Escape.

He said his company is proud to have been recognized by such a large, powerful retailer.

Mell specifically aimed the gift card idea at people within driving distance of NOTL.

During the three-month process, Mell learned more about retailing physical gift cards apart from the store and working with a larger



Grape Escape Wine Tours owner Richard Mell with one of the gift cards now available at Costco. SARAH LAUGHTON

retail company, but said the overall process was rather straightforward.

Mell said from personal experience he’s seen an increase in the giving of experiential gifts, so he hopes his idea will be a success, but said it’s difficult to estimate their popularity in the future.

“I think it’s exciting, per-

sonally, to hopefully reach other people that maybe might not know about us,” he said.

The gift vouchers can be used for vehicle tours, bicycle tours and the company’s escape room attraction.

Alongside his business, Mell is one of 13 vying for a seat on the council in the upcoming fall election.

Last farmer’s market of the year

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Despite windy conditions, patrons still made it out to the last gathering of the Farmers’ Market at the Village as its 16th season wound down this weekend.

The Saturday market features a tight-knit community of vendors and a selection of local goods, and its final week was no different.

Kim McQuhae of Gryphon Ridge Highlands, accompanied by her dog Finnegan, was offering an end-of-season sale on her award-winning jams and jellies.

“I have really great market neighbours. It’s like everybody gets together and has a chat in the morning,” said McQuhae.

“We have a regular clientele that also comes out. I’m really fortunate that I have people that are willing to come out and try things again and again.”

One of those regulars is NOTLer and writer Mary Kovack.

Relishing every moment of the last community gathering of the season,



James and Liam Cadeau of Sweets & Swirls Cafe try to keep warm while selling delicious good at the last Farmers Market of the season on Saturday. JULIA SACCO

Kovack made her way from vendor to vendor, engaging with each seller and making conversation with other regulars.

“I come every week. I’ve been here eight years and I come back every year,” said Kovack.

As for her favourite vendors, Kovack said their relationships have grown to more than customer and vendor.

“I have my friends. I call them my friends now because over the years you really get to know them,” she said.

These friends include Sweets & Swirls Cafe.

Braving the cold to-

gether in their booth, father and son James and Liam Cadeau shared their most loved memory of the market this season and why it is so special to them.

“Seeing all the people every week, a lot of the same people and some new, the community spirit is so important,” said James.

It is clear the communal Saturday morning ritual will be dearly missed by vendors and patrons alike over the winter months.

“I can’t stand it. They need more!” said Kovack.

But she’ll have to patiently await the opening of the next market season in May 2023.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Passing of Regional-Wide Development Charges By-Law

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Niagara Region passed municipal-wide development charges By-law No. 2022-94 on the 29th day of September, 2022 under section 2 (1) of the Development Charges Act, 1997, S.O., 1997 c. 27, as amended;

AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or organization may appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal under section 14 of the

Act, in respect of the development charges by-law, by filing with the Regional Clerk on or before the 8th day of November, 2022 a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons supporting the objection.

The schedule of development charges imposed by the by-law, which comes into effect on January 1, 2023, is as follows:

SCHEDULE C By-law No. 2022-94

Service/ Class of Service	Single and Semi-Detached Dwelling	Other Multiples	Apartments 2+ Bedrooms	Apartments 1 Bedroom	Special Care/ Special Dwelling Units & Dwelling Rooms	Commercial (per sq.ft.)	Industrial (per sq.ft.)	Institutional (per sq.ft.)	Wind Turbines
Transit Services	585	418	398	243	220	0.59	0.19	0.36	0

No key map has been provided as By-law No. 2022-94 applies to all lands located within the Niagara Region.

A copy of the complete by-law is available at niagararegion.ca/business/property/background-study.aspx. A copy of the complete By-law is available for examination at Niagara Region Headquarters, 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON, L2V 4T7

during regular business hours (weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) excluding statutory holidays.

DATED at Niagara Region offices in Thorold, Ontario, this 30th day of September, 2022.

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

Caring Coyotes become **Ferocious Foxes** for a day

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Life was a highway at Crossroads Public School last Thursday as students ran circles around their teachers and their playground in support of Terry Fox and cancer research.

The student-run Crossroads Caring Coyotes club, fondly referred to as the 3C club, was the organizing force behind this year's run.

"This club helps students to develop leadership, volunteerism and community outreach," French teacher Michele Zoccoli told The Lake Report in an email.

"Whatever campaigns are gonna resonate with them. That's what we're gonna do," she said.

Students ran and walked, some hand in hand to raise money for the famed marathon runner as their peers in the 3C club cheered them on with orange pom-poms.

"We had more kids than we normally have," Zoccoli said.

Zoccoli said this was the Virgil school's first in-person run since the beginning



Some excited Crossroads students get hyped up before the run. EVAN LOREE

of the pandemic, so the kids were excited to be a part of it again.

Last year, the school raised about \$2,000 for cancer research.

This year, donations totalled, \$2,618, surpassing

the goal of \$2,000.

Terry Fox's story hits close to home with Zoccoli.

"I personally am a survivor of cancer, so that resonates with me," she said.

She said Fox is her choice for top Canadian, but is

amazed that people outside Canada haven't heard of the man and his Marathon of Hope.

The fact is not lost on the students either, especially those who joined Zoccoli to cheer on runners at the

town's Terry Fox Run on Sept. 18.

"We learned that a lot of countries don't know about Terry Fox," Eliana McManus said in an interview.

She said it was "really moving" to see her friends

and fellow students running for Terry Fox.

"It was amazing what he did for everyone. And he was a big inspiration," said Caring Coyote Keira Dexter.

Club member and Grade 8 student Fiona Bell looked around and said Fox's story continues in his wake because the run happens every year.

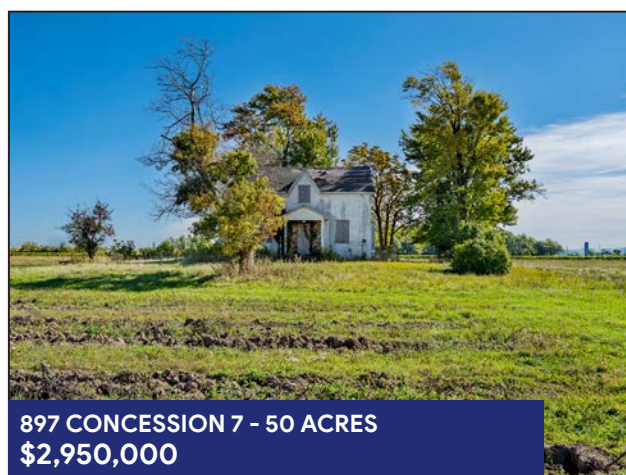
The members of the 3C club will be moving onto high school next fall, but hope they can continue to be a part of the Terry Fox Run.

Students were also given the choice to dip their feet in a bucket of water at the start of their run, just as Terry Fox dipped his artificial leg in the Atlantic Ocean at the start of his trek.

Laury Willms and a small student choir led the entire school in the singing of "O Canada" in the backyard playground before they started running.

The anthem was quickly replaced with the sound of classic rock and screaming kids, all out in their sneakers to raise money for cancer research.

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No wins but a **learning experience** for Jr. A Predators

Kevan Dowd
The Lake Report

The Niagara Jr. A Predators didn't earn any points last weekend but head coach Kevin Taylor thinks the two losses served as teaching moments for the players – on and off the ice.

Friday night the Durham Roadrunners – last season's South Division champs for the Greater Metro Hockey League – brought plenty of experience, talent and goals to the Meridian Credit Union Arena. But not a lot of class.

Besting Niagara 6-1, Durham's players – both on and off the ice – seemed determined to remind everyone in the arena of their past success, something Taylor thinks got under his team's skin.

"They didn't have any respect," he said. "Not just for the team they were playing but for the game itself. A lot of guys noticed."

Durham started off the scoring early, with Niagara's Reese Bisci netting the Predators' only tally of the night to tie things up with 7:27 left in the first period.



The Niagara Jr. A Predators lost two of two games on the weekend. KEVAN DOWD

A late-period marker put Durham ahead after 20 minutes but four goals in the second period gave them a solid lead. A strong third period for Niagara held them at six but the Predators failed to put anything else past Durham's Gian-Marco Peyer.

"I thought the first period we played well, the first

goal, I think was a high stick, the second was a mistake but we came out 2-1," said Taylor.

"Then all the sudden we kind of laid back" but found their game in the third.

"The guys are not happy, the score is 6-1, yeah it's a little tough but what I was more bothered by was the total disrespect. What was

happening up in the stands, the pointing, the yapping."

Taylor still feels Friday's game against the much more experienced Roadrunners was a good learning experience for his young team.

"It's a good learning experience for the team. They were in the championships for the league, they're the cream of the crop for the division and that's what we have to strive to be."

Although things didn't improve on the scoreboard during Sunday's 5-3 road loss to the St. George Ravens, Taylor was happy.

"It was a close game. We didn't play great, but it was a good educational game," he said.

"There was a lot of action back and forth, the goalies made a lot of nice saves. There wasn't any stupidity. It was just two teams that were battling really hard to win."

St. George had a 2-0 lead at the end of the first period but Niagara's Jaroslav Dohnal closed the gap with the only second period goal.

The Predators came back strong in the third period,

jumping to a 3-2 lead in the first five minutes thanks to Anthony Tropea and Nolan Wyers. But it was all St. George from there with three goals in the last 11 minutes.

"They didn't make any major mistakes. They didn't do anything wrong," said Taylor.

"It was just a game with minor mistakes and St. George capitalized on ours and we capitalized on theirs, and then St. George got a lucky bounce on their fourth goal and it just sort of deflated us with five minutes left."

It doesn't get any easier for Niagara. The team has a tough weekend ahead, Friday night taking on the undefeated North York Renegades, who beat Durham 4-1 last Sunday.

The the Press head to Oshawa on Monday for a second match versus the Roadrunners.

While Taylor knows his players have not forgotten their last game with Durham, he said they have put it behind them. He also takes pride in his team not behaving in the same manner.

"When we go into Durham on the 17th, I'm sure they'll be remembering the guys screaming and yelling and being disrespectful. But for a young bunch of kids, they carry themselves really well. And that's one of things I try to teach, is to be decent human beings on and off the ice."

But first comes North York. Acknowledging his team's mostly small stature, Taylor hopes the Predators can capitalize on their speed.

But with teams like Durham successfully clogging up the neutral zone, the Predators have struggled to get their feet going.

"Our biggest asset is our speed but it also hampers us because we're not big enough to compete against a lot of teams right now. So we have to learn to use our size and our speed to our advantage."

The Predators play at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Meridian Credit Union Arena. The team's food drive with Newark Neighbours continues this weekend so fans are encouraged to bring non-perishable goods.



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Beefsteak Society Dinner

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2022 at NAVY HALL

The Friends of Fort George invite you to a special fundraiser dinner, fashioned after the popular Sublime Beefsteak Society of England. The evening will include a steak dinner, music, an auction and great entertainment. Tickets must be purchased in advance as seating is limited. For more information, visit www.friendsoffortgeorge.ca or call 905-468-6621

All proceeds from the evening will help to support student employment opportunities



Chautauqua Oaks Project plants dozens of trees around community

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A small team of Niagara College students joined Prof. Wayne Wakal on Shakespeare Avenue in Chautauqua last Thursday to plant the seedlings of the mighty oak trees that make up the neighbourhood's tree canopy. The canopy is a defining

feature of the area and has been growing thinner every year as a result of human activity and climate change.

In 2016, Chautauqua resident Leslie Frankish began the Chautauqua Oaks Project to help preserve the neighbourhood's tree canopy.

She and her fellow volunteer residents have been doing an annual tree planting ever since.

In 2018, they joined forces with Niagara College's school of horticulture.

Last week, the team of students from the college planted 48 trees under Wakal's guidance.

Students from the college's seed germination class harvested the saplings from acorns dropped by the heritage oaks in Chautauqua.

Exchange Brewery's Oktoberfest brings a bit of Germany to NOTL

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Walking into Oktoberfest at the Exchange Brewery last Saturday, customers were greeted with upbeat polka music, festive decorations and the delicious waft of fresh German pretzels.

Running at the brewery since 2018, Oktoberfest is an opportunity for guests to try a unique selection of German beers specifically brewed for the occasion.

Head brewer Sam Maxbauer was inspired by his German upbringing. "The small town where I grew up was a very German and Czech-influenced neighbourhood, so they kept all of the traditions alive as far as food and beer and culture," he said Maxbauer.

"That was one of the reasons that I wanted to do this. Plus I think it's a great way to feature some beer styles that you might not have every day."

Kathryn Dodington, the



Beer and pretzels were in abundance for Oktoberfest at the Exchange Brewery on Saturday. JULIA SACCO

assistant manager and event co-ordinator, explained the details of the exclusive menu and the ideas behind them.

"This is the only time of the year that we serve steins, so we have our one-litre Oktoberfest steins," said Dodington.

"We pull our barbecue out and we're doing bratwurst and specialty pretzels made by Treadwell Bakery."

The day-long bash did not feature live music this year, but Dodington has high hopes of bringing it back.

"Hopefully, we will have it back in full swing for 2023," said Dodington.

For now, guests can look forward to more unique gatherings at the brewery, including one of its biggest, Sourpalooza, next spring.

Maxbauer noted it features sour beers.

"It's a really cool event with summer beer, lots of local producers from within the province and we usually try to have a few out-of-province and international breweries in there as well."

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Austin Kirkby

AUSTIN ANN KIRKBY (RICHARDSON)
April 13, 1943 – Oct. 3, 2022

On the morning of Oct. 3, 2022, Austin Kirkby passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family.

Beloved wife and life-long partner to John for 59 years. Much loved mother to Susan (Allen) Janzen, Katie (Kevin) Overstrom, Becky (Tim) Arnold. Wonderfully proud grandmother to Kaila (Alasdair) Daw, Dean (Katie) Janzen, Chelsea and Cooper Overstrom, and Declan and Avryl Arnold. Loving GG to Zoe Daw, and Madison and Emily Janzen. Dear sister of Jeanne Thomson and her family.

Austin was born in 1943 in Toronto to James and Dorothea Richardson. The family moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in the 1950s. Austin worked alongside the creative team of her mother and sister at the family floral shop, Dorothy Richardson Florists, on the main street in NOTL. In 1963, she married her high school sweetheart, John. They moved to his family farm and settled into the large family home that was shared by two generations of John's family. Austin and John ran Arrowhead Farms together for over 40 years.

In 1991, Austin began a 15-year tenure as Councillor for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. During this time, she served on over 20 advisory committees. Austin helped to establish the new Library, Community Centre, and funding for the new Virgil arena. She was a tireless advocate for both the Niagara community and the agricultural industry. Following her years on council, Austin continued to Chair the Agricultural Irrigation Committee and the Agricultural Advisory Committee. In 2018, she was humbled to receive Citizen of the Year for Niagara-on-the-Lake for all her years of hard work and volunteerism.

In 2019, following a difficult cancer diagnosis, John and Austin retired to Vineland to be closest to their youngest grandchildren. During these three years, Austin faced her illness with the utmost courage, strength, and her well known tenacious spirit.

Words cannot truly express the gratitude that we feel for the Walker Family Cancer Clinic. A debt of gratitude to Dr. Wasserman, Dr. Tatzel, and Dr. Ishkanian. A special thanks to Dr. Woodland of Beamsville, and Julie and Kate at Stone Road Pharmacy. Those who wish may make a memorial contribution to The Walker Family Cancer Centre.

Please join us for A Celebration of Austin's Life

Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022

Tribute to begin at 1:30 p.m.

Reception to follow 2-4:30 p.m.

The Pillar and Post, Upper Canada Hall.

Niagara-on-the-Lake



Jim Sifton

SIFTON, Jim - son of Bill and Margaret (nee Houston) Sifton, husband to Anne (nee Dickson) for 49 years, father to Rob (Leah Scott) and Heather (Strahan) McCarten, grandfather to Elan, Maggie, Avery and Hayden, and brother to Don (Katie) and Bonnie (Steven) Walsh passed away on Oct. 4 the way he wished – at home, surrounded by family, and supported by the love of many. Jim lived a full and happy life, bringing kindness, humility, and humour wherever he went. His identity was built by his early years: growing up on Ellistone farm, attending Queens University to become a civil engineer, and then volunteering with CUSO in Botswana with Anne. His family life, built in Burlington, Dartmouth and then NOTL, was filled with construction projects, sports, and time spent with his many friends and family. But it's a million little things that made Jim who he was: the guy with a twinkle in his eye, who was always methodical, relished competition, and could never, ever be rushed. The way he made Halloween candy last all year, scraped his plate at every meal in a way no one could imagine, and took lawn mowing to a new level. Quietly courageous, frugal yet generous, and selfless right up to the very end, Jim will be remembered with a smile. Anyone wishing to make a donation in Jim's memory can do so at the Canadian Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation (cpff.ca) or through the Pulmonary Rehab Program through the Niagara Health Foundation. Cremation has taken place, and interment will take place at Trinity Church Howard near Morpeth, ON. A celebration of life will be held on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 from 1-3 p.m. at the NOTL Community Centre. Arrangements entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent St., Niagara-on-the-Lake. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



Robert Olley

Dr. Robert Edward Olley
April 16, 1933 – Oct. 3, 2022

With heavy hearts, we announce the death of Bob Olley, age 89. Bob is survived by his wife of over 65 years and partner in life's adventure, Shirley (nee Dahl). He was inordinately proud of his four children, Elizabeth (Yvan), Steven (Amy), Susan (Dieter), and Maureen (Jim), and 10 "perfect" grandchildren: Justine and Joseph Fallu; Vivian and Sydney Olley; Alex (Constanza), Ryan, Jeremy, and Elena Gamm; and Adam and Michael Konowalchuk. They all spent many happy holidays visiting their grandparents in NOTL.

Bob and Shirley retired to Niagara on the Lake in August 1993. Bob had been a Professor of Economics at the University of Saskatchewan for 30 years. They knew no one but they quickly met neighbours. They were renovating an old house so they soon met plumbers and carpenters and painters. They joined the Shaw Guild, the Supper Club, the Scottish Society, the Golf Club (Bob) and the Girl Guides (Shirley). Bob was an Economist and soon found himself busy travelling for consulting projects.

Bob was a life-long learner and avid reader. He and his beloved wife, Shirley, travelled the world. His endless curiosity and thirst for knowledge led to many laughs, adventures, and personal and professional achievements. He loved his life in NOTL but finally had to leave in 2019 due to failing health. They moved to Thornhill, ON to be near to their daughter Susan and family.

A private family memorial will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please donate to your favourite charity in NOTL.

Online condolences can be made at dignitymemorial.com



Once again this year, words cannot express our deep gratitude and heartfelt thanks to the following donors and supporters to the **Newark Neighbours Thanksgiving Holiday Hamper Program**

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Phil's Independent	Harmony Drive Residents Association
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Lifepointe Bible Church	The Lake Report
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church	The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local
St. Mark's Anglican Church	Communities in Bloom
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church	Community Garden
Bethany Mennonite Church	The Farmer's Market @ The Village
Christ Church McNab	(Bartel Organics, Bee Inspired Farms & Klassen Farms)

... and many, many generous individuals and families throughout our wonderful Niagara-on-the-Lake community.

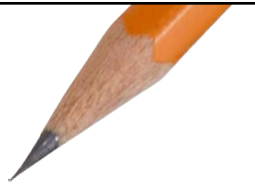
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Across

- 9. Al fresco (4-3)
- 10. Deadly intestinal ailment (7)
- 11. What Rapunzel grew (5)
- 12. Collection point for passage fees (9)
- 13. Retained (4)
- 14. It might be proscribed or prescribed (4)
- 15. Winger sliced bread (5)
- 19. Furrowed (6)
- 20. Face hardship bravely (4,2)
- 23. Despise (5)
- 24. Sullen (4)
- 25. Yield (4)
- 27. Community tunes and songs (4,5)
- 29. Rock bottom (5)
- 30. Entourage (7)
- 31. John ---, tempestuous court star (7)

Down

- 1. On one side of a notorious DM Z (5,5)
- 2. High level of excitement (5,5)
- 3. Your personal "equator"? (5)
- 4. Rhetorical skill (7)
- 5. Greenery? (7)
- 6. Out (9)
- 7. Turn down (4)
- 8. Unwise (4)
- 16. They can mix zombies (10)
- 17. Sources of Dabinetts, for example (5,5)
- 18. Gaiety (9)
- 21. Eventful trip (7)
- 22. Give in (7)
- 26. Lay to rest (5)
- 27. Grange (4)
- 28. Mandolin-like instrument (4)

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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11			12				
13			14		15	16	17
		18					
19					20		
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27	28					29	
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Last issue's answers

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27	L	U	R	E				28	V	O	L	K	S	W	A	G	E	N		
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4				1			9	
7				9	3		5	
9		6	1					
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The emotional and moral worlds of chimps and humans



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

Know How Smart Animals Are?"

The very title suggests the answer. De Waal isn't suggesting animals are more clever than humans, but that the emotional life and mind-reading capabilities of many socially intelligent animals might rival our own.

Chimpanzees and their close cousins, bonobos, are capable of limited planning, solving some novel problems and employing tools in a limited fashion.

But they possess nothing like humans' sophisticated symbolic thinking and language and will never come up with anything remotely like general relativity or the Hubble and James Webb telescopes, mathematics, or compose music, or write poems and plays.

For De Waal, to watch chimpanzee society is to watch human society in action. Chimps are well aware of who's who, who's in charge, who's allied with whom, who's on the outs, who has power or not, and who can be trusted in ways that aren't so different than the behaviour of humans.

Both species are very



skilled at sizing up others within their groups.

Going further, chimpanzees possess a well-developed sense of unfairness toward themselves (first order unfairness or fairness) or to others in the troop (second order unfairness or fairness) and will protest unfairness for both.

Fairness toward strangers (third order fairness) is said to be limited to humans, but if so, often isn't often expressed toward other humans outside our usual social circles.

Just as chimps sometimes cheat on one another, so also do humans, although it's easier for humans to hide their cheating. That is until investigative reporters find out, as the New York Times revealed on Sept. 11 of this year, that 97 members of Congress traded in companies influenced by committees they belonged to.

If memory serves me right that's been a recurring "fairness" or in this case unfairness issue for congressional members for some time.

Or what about the scandal not so many years ago about how the well-to-do and powerful sometimes cheat to secure entry for their children into highly competitive colleges and universities.

As I pointed out a few weeks ago, De Waal's first best selling book, "Chimpanzee Politics," likened the behavioural traits he and others observed in chimpanzees to the behaviour of members of the U.S. Congress.

I expect the same might be said sometimes for Canadian parliamentary bodies

and local politics as well.

The similarities in social intelligence and moral sense of highly intelligent social species compared to those of humans suggests the parts of the brain that underlie social intelligence and fairness are similar among intelligent social species – including humans.

Certainly, the regions of the brain associated with emotion and feelings are similar among intelligent social species. Those parts include the cingulate gyrus, orbital-frontal cortex, amygdala, hippocampus, thalamus and hypothalamus and the connections between these and other regions of the brain – regions often referred to as the limbic system.

No surprise, lesions which involve these regions, may change emotional expression and control, and social behavior.

One classic example involved the case of Phineas Gage, an American railway construction worker in the 1800s, into whose skull and frontal lobes a large iron rod was driven by an explosion.

Before the injury he was a

hard-working pleasant man but following the accident, he became foul mouthed, quick tempered and irreverent. Similar disinhibition is common in fronto-temporal forms of dementia and other lesions, which affect the frontal lobes.

The evolution of hominins was associated with successively larger brains. But the most significant change was in the folding and expansion of the neocortex, especially in the regions associated with symbolic thinking and language, and rational creative and imaginative thought processes – not so much in regions related to feelings and emotion.

Therein lies the paradox: Our emotional brain hasn't shown the same progress as our rational brain in the last several hundred thousand years.

Hence a Putin and the climate mess we're in and a James Webb telescope – opposites but all too human.

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

WE LOVE NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE IT'S WORTH PROTECTING

“Doubling tourism in NOTL means higher taxes for costly infrastructure, road repairs and mitigating traffic congestion.”

“Niagara-on-the-Lake would need more traffic circles. Emergency response times would be reduced. Parking will be difficult to find. Good neighbours will move away because of crowds and hollowed out neighbourhoods. Large, noisy, littering crowds will make NOTL famous as the town overtourism killed.”

“Niagara-on-the-Lake needs a tourism strategy that puts residents ahead of greed. Niagara-on-the-Lake should first be great place to live and second a great place to visit. NOTL should be a gem worth visiting, not a overcrowded tourist trap noted as a quick stop on the way to Niagara Falls because of its many its tax payer funded public toilets.”

“Defund tourism marketing that goes beyond pre-pandemic levels. Vote for town councillors who put residents first before special interests.”

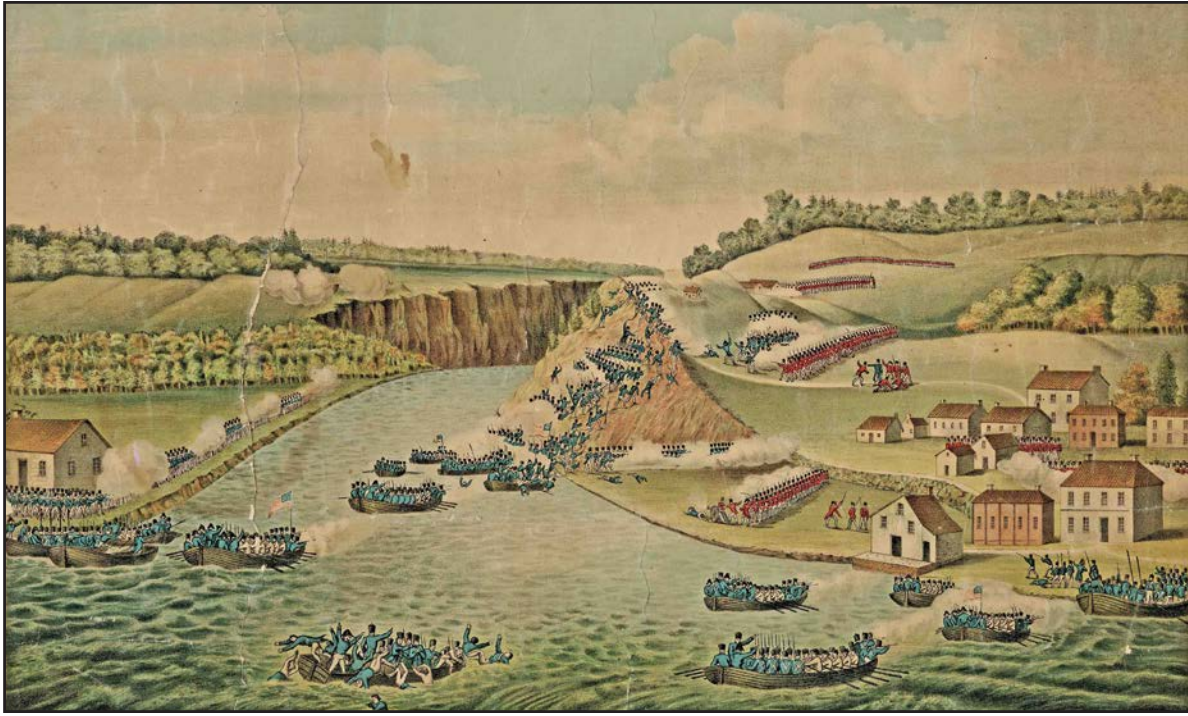


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EXPLORING PHOTOS
WITH NOTL MUSEUM



The Battle of Queenston Heights

Today, Oct. 13 is the 210th anniversary of the Battle of Queenston Heights. This engraving, circa 1880s, depicts the battle by showing American troops (in blue uniforms) crossing the Niagara River and landing at Queenston. It was done by T. Sutherland but the original sketch was made by James Dennis (1796-1855), the senior British officer at Queenston when the Americans first landed. His grenadier company of the 49th (the Hertfordshire) Regiment of Foot fought throughout the battle.

British soldiers (in red uniforms) under the command of Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock came from the town of Niagara and attempted to defend the heights. Unfortunately, Brock and his aid-de-camp, Lt.-Col. John Macdonell, were shot during the battle. Gen. Roger Hale Sheaffe, next in command, arrived from Fort George with 100 Indigenous allies led by John Norton and John Brant. They overran an American outpost and attacked the U.S. forces from behind. The Americans, with little room to retreat, were forced down the steep heights. Making matters worse, the N.Y. militia declared their constitutional right to fight only in the U.S. and refused to cross the river. They had seen additional British forces approaching and upon hearing the fierce cries of the Indigenous warriors, the American forces were struck with fear. Make sure you head up to Queenston Heights for the festivities this weekend. The NOTL Museum also has a small exhibition on display commemorating the battle.

Queen Street hustle bustle



PHOTO GALLERY
See more pictures at niagaranow.com

Lake Report photographer Dave Van de Laar captured this image of a crowded Queen Street sidewalk. People are out in jackets as the season turns colder, but visitors are still making their way to town for some shopping.

Looking to the Stars

Some sensual times might be on the horizon

Thursday, Oct. 13: Gemini is where the moon lives most of today and while there she is, first, in perfect harmony with Mercury in Libra and later in a stressful but totally wonderful connection with Uranus in Taurus. An exciting person or project comes to light. It was Oct. 13, 1812, that Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock was killed during the Battle of Queenston Heights during the War of 1812.



Friday, Oct. 14: A pause in the humdrum of daily life gives us a chance to sort out what we really value. Happy birthday to the Supreme Allied Commander of Europe during the Second World War, a man who went on to serve two terms as president of the United States. Dwight D. Eisenhower was born Oct. 14, 1890.

Saturday, Oct. 15: You may feel as if today is two different days – starting at midnight until noon with the moon in Gemini and noon to the end of Saturday with the moon in her home sign of Cancer. We first saw her as co-star of “Laverne & Shirley.” She then became a director with huge successes like “Big,” “Awakenings” and “A League of Their Own.” Penny Marshall was born Oct. 15, 1943, and died Dec. 17, 2018.



Sunday, Oct. 16: Dreaming and imagining get much accomplished today – more than any activity, they produce tangible results. Still, make notes for activities in the future. On Oct. 16, 1968, Tommie Smith and John Carlos, won gold and silver at the Mexico Olympics.

On the awards podium, both raised their fists and bowed their heads in the Black Power salute.



Monday, Oct. 17: A couple of days where Mars figures in important ways begins today with Mars and the sun in perfect harmony. It's rare that solving problems by competing works well, but today's that day. One of the great heroes of the War of 1812 died on Oct. 17, 1868. After walking an estimated 32 kilometres in 1813 to warn the British about an American invasion, Laura Secord survived for many years and died at age 93.

Tuesday, Oct. 18: Tonight, Venus is at 24 degrees of Libra while Mars is at 24 degrees of Gemini. It's full of energy. It's sexy. It's a trine. Enjoy it. Born Oct. 18, 1917, he would twice become Canada's prime minister. First after stirring up a mania that seemed to go coast to coast, then in 1974 when Canada wanted him back. Today, Pierre Elliott Trudeau would have been 105 years old.



Wednesday, Oct. 19: Twice a year, every year, we are confronted with our most erotic selves. Today is one of those days. Fortunately, today is also a time when we can forgive both others and ourselves. Happy birthday number 85 to psychedelic artist Peter Max, most famous for his Beatles album covers and posters.

Check out the weekly podcast, researched, written and recorded by Bill Auchterlonie at www.lutts.ca.

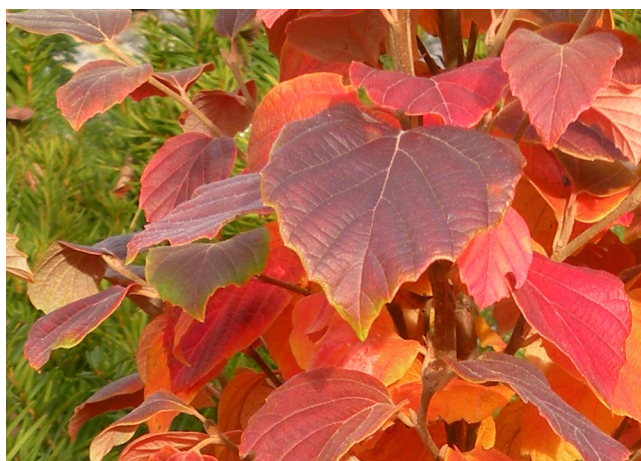
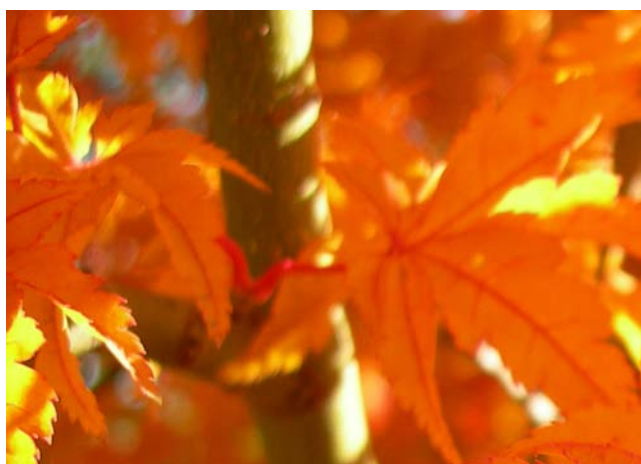
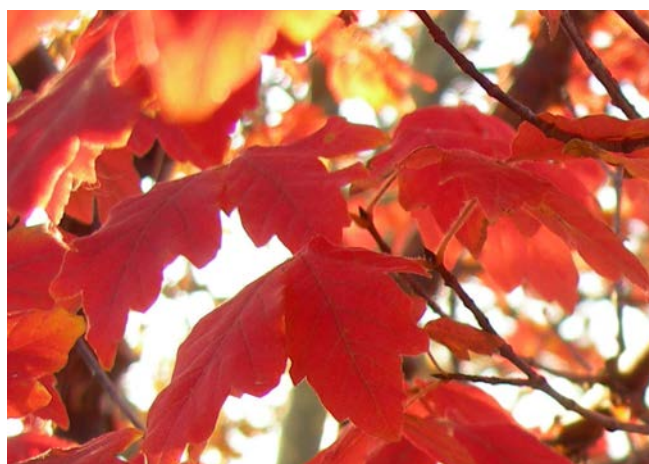
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Clockwise from top left: Acer griseum, Acer palmatum "Shishigashira," fall leaves, fothergilla. JOANNE YOUNG

ST. MARK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH PRESENTS

"Our Secret Heart"
Ben Heppner in conversation
with Karen Heppner

Overview
BEN HEPPNER

Now retired, legendary Canadian tenor Ben Heppner has carved out a niche for himself as a radio personality and sought after speaker. He will be at St. Mark's to talk to his wife — and us — about his career as one of the world's most renowned tenors, life in the world of opera, and his personal faith.

41 Byron St., Niagara-on-the-Lake
\$35
Monday, Oct. 17, 2022 | 3:30 p.m.

Put away your shears. Fall is **not** pruning time



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Gardening Columnist

As we are starting to clean up our gardens for the season, the tendency is to prune all our deciduous shrubs, evergreens and trees.

In the majority of cases, my response to this is to put your pruners down and back away from the plant.

Fall is not the time to be pruning. Here is my reasoning behind this.

As we go into autumn and start seeing plants go dormant and leaves start to turn beautiful fall colours, what we don't see is what is going on inside the plant.

All summer, the leaves have been storing up food from the sun and air in a process called photosynthesis. As the fall approaches, all this stored energy starts to move from the leaves,

down the stem and back into the roots.

In the spring, that same energy then moves from the roots, up the stem and forces out new leaves. If this whole process did not occur, a plant, when it dropped its leaves, would lose all its stored energy, resulting in a weakened plant.

In the same way, if you are pruning your shrub at this time, before its leaves drop, you are cutting off this stored food, which will result in a weaker plant.

Will it kill the plant? No, but it will not perform at its best. Also, by pruning in the fall, the cut area does not have time to properly heal, making it more susceptible to winter die-back.

Pruning also stimulates new growth. Whenever you cut back a plant, its first instinct is to push out new growth. So, if you prune in early fall, the plant may push out new growth before going dormant.

This new growth will not have a chance to properly harden-off before winter and may suffer more damage from cold winter winds. This is true for evergreen shrubs as well.

Pruning early spring flowering trees and shrubs in the fall will result in loss of

flower buds that would have opened the next spring.

Plants such as magnolia, wisteria, lilac, viburnum, forsythia, purpleleaf sandcherry, redbud, serviceberry and others all set flower buds in late summer for the next season. So, pruning at this time will rob the plant of next year's flowers.

If a shrub has grown excessively this year and some of its branches are overhanging walkways or scratching against a wall, you can lightly cut back those branches that are problematic.

This "no pruning in fall" rule is especially true for roses.

Do not prune roses at this time unless canes are so tall that they will be damaged in the winter or will be scratching up against the house — and then only prune back what is needed to stop winter damage.

I know that many of you do your hard pruning in fall, but here is why you should let the last flowers remain on the plant, letting it go to seed.

Roses are very slow to go dormant at the end of the season. This is why you will often see roses still in bloom well into October and even November (sometimes December).

As mentioned earlier, pruning stimulates new growth and that is not what you want to see late in the season. This new growth will not have time to harden off before winter sets in.

Also, any plant's goal is to produce seed to reproduce itself. If you keep deadheading the flowers late into the season, it is also telling the plant that it still needs to keep producing flowers.

By letting the last flowers remain on the plant, it is signalling to the plant that it is done for the season. This helps the plant to go to sleep (dormant) for the winter, which is what you do want to happen.

The deeper sleep the plant is in, the less likely it will start to grow prematurely in spring and be furthered damaged.

The best time to prune your hybrid teas, grandiflora and floribunda roses is early spring when the buds begin to swell (when the forsythias are in bloom).

So, pruning shrubs, trees and evergreens at this time of year, is one chore that you can stroke off your list until next spring.

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



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