



Doors Open up to history | Pages 12-13

# Zalepa surges to **big win** over Disero



**Erwin Wiens**  
4,978 votes



**Gary Burroughs**  
4,273 votes



**Wendy Cheropita**  
3,774 votes



**Tim Balasiuk**  
3,742 votes



Lord Mayor-elect Gary Zalepa sprints through the doors of the NOTL Community Centre on Monday night. With him are his sister Alison, left, campaign chair Holly Dowd and his wife Tammy, right. SOMER SLOBODIAN



**Sandra O'Connor**  
3,391 votes



**Nick Ruller**  
3,318 votes



**Adriana Cater Vizzari**  
3,152 votes



**Maria Mavridis**  
2,897 votes

## Erwin Wiens tops councillor results with almost 5,000 votes

Kevin MacLean  
Evan Loree  
The Lake Report

## ELECTION '22

Gary Zalepa had no idea he had already won.

Sitting at home Monday night, trying to monitor the municipal election results on the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's website, he knew he had been leading incumbent Lord Mayor Betty Disero by a few hundred votes.

But the town's new website was down for much of the first hour after the polls closed at 8 p.m.

When it was up, online results

were slow and often behind those posted live on two screens in the NOTL Community Centre auditorium.

At home in Old Town, Zalepa, his wife Tammy, sister Alison, campaign chair Holly Dowd and members of the campaign team were unclear where things stood.

So, Dowd, the town's former chief administrator, reached out to the staff at the auditorium, wondering what was up.

The response: a text message

with a screenshot showing Zalepa nearly 1,200 votes ahead of Disero – with all polls reporting.

"I wasn't sure it was real at first," Dowd said later.

Worried the news was too good to be true, she and Alison waited before mentioning it to the candidate.

"Then Gary got a phone call asking why he wasn't at the community centre" – because he'd won.

*Continued on Page 4*

## Niagara Nursery School: Memories fade but experiences aren't forgotten

Identifying the teacher and students of the single inaugural class of the 1973 Niagara Nursery School became a pleasurable crusade, a quest that took *The Lake Report* virtually around the world from St. Catharines to Italy.

Today's instalment tells more stories of the teachers and students from that classic class photo from the early 1970s, now posted online at [www.niagaranow.com](http://www.niagaranow.com).

In the end, we couldn't find everyone. So, we need your help. If you recognize any of the students in the picture, please call 905-468-2536 or email [timothyntaylor1949@gmail.com](mailto:timothyntaylor1949@gmail.com).

Tim Taylor  
The Lake Report

The Lake Report found Anna Marie Gill (nee Porco), the school's lone teacher for the 1973 year, living in a small village in Piemonte, Italy, two hours southwest of Milan.

Originally from Thorold, she taught at the school from 1973 to 1977. She remembers starting her stint at Harmony Hall, but teaching at the Legion and St. Mark's Addison Hall, in later years.

She went on to have a full career in early childhood

education, wherever she lived.

"I loved this age group because they are eager to learn – and they listen. They were just little sponges."

Gill returns to Niagara as often as she and her husband Justin can. "Until recently, I had my daughter

and grandchildren there. We still have friends we visit."

Jennifer Mactaggart remembers Gill fondly: "I loved Anna Marie. She was awesome."

Mactaggart is a teacher-librarian in Toronto. "I use

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# Finishing official plan a **key priority**, new mayor says

Evan Loree  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

## **ELECTION '22**

Election day was a storm of activity for Gary Zalepa. It started with cautious optimism at a campaign rally on the corner of Four Mile Creek Road and Niagara Stone Road, and ended by the bar rail of the Sandtrap late in the evening soaking in his victory.

It was a contentious race among Zalepa, incumbent Betty Disero and newcomer Vaughn Goettler.

Zalepa earned 3,724 votes, nearly half the ballots cast for mayor, beating Disero by 1,138 votes. Goettler received 1,268 votes.

Now, the work begins and once he takes office Zalepa said the “first part is really getting the team formed.”

Tim Balasiuk, Adriana Cater Vizzari, Maria Mavri-



Gary Zalepa and his campaign team rally in Virgil on the morning of election day. EVAN LOREE

dis and Nick Ruller will be this council’s four rookies and getting them on the same page with the rest of the council is the first step, he said.

Zalepa said he wants to prioritize the town’s stra-

tegic plan “out of the gate” and get it “integrated into the town’s official plan.”

The official plan was a priority project for the previous council but its approval has been delayed because of the province re-

evaluating its initial population projections for Niagara region.

Paraphrasing a town staff report, Zalepa said NOTL’s plan “was incongruent with the provincial policy statement.”

He described the previous council’s accomplishments on the official plan as a “false positive.”

The plan is now on hold as staff work to make it conform with the region’s plan.

Zalepa may find another early obstacle being lobbed at him by the provincial government thanks to the More Homes Built Faster Act.

Doug Ford’s government introduced the new legislation Tuesday to permit zoning amendments to residential properties and allow owners and developers to build three units per lot.

The move aims to dramatically increase the housing density of urban areas.

“This is why it’s so important to get the strategic plan done,” Zalepa said.

He believes the town will

be able to work with upper levels of government to ensure areas like Old Town are protected from densification.

“There’ll be an ability for municipalities to show that density targets can vary as long as overall we’re hitting them,” he added.

The town is currently on track to hit its densification targets until 2032.

Zalepa said he decided to run because he felt he “could bring council together more cohesively,” adding that his particular style seemed to be what was missing.

Returning Coun. Erwin Wiens, who will be deputy lord mayor, told The Lake Report in an interview at the Sandtrap that he is looking forward to working with Zalepa and that for the next four years, “the buck will stop with us.”

# Development, tourism, agriculture were big issues, voters say

Evan Loree  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake voters turned out in droves for Monday’s municipal election, as a steady stream of people lined up throughout the day at most polling locations.

Parents were concerned about educational issues, voters in St. Davids were worried about road infrastructure and many were concerned about the town’s tourism headaches.

Most of those interviewed felt strongly about exercising their right to vote.

“Somebody had to fight for it. So obviously, I think it’s important,” said Chris Rogers who arrived at Crossroads Public School to cast his vote shortly after 4 p.m.

His thoughts were shared by Roger Armstrong in St. Davids who “had grandparents that fought in the war.”

Rogers said he feels the town runs fairly well and that there weren’t too many issues that stood out to him as especially troublesome.

Catharine Wickabrod didn’t say much about her politics but argued, “You can’t complain if you don’t



Andrew Dionne, left, and friend Ron Peters both cast their votes for Gary Zalepa. EVAN LOREE

go out and vote.”

Krista Kemp was at the Holiday Inn Express in Glendale voting with her 18-year-old son, Evan Kemp.

Evan said he still isn’t that interested in voting and felt he hadn’t researched the issues enough but expects to be more engaged in the future.

His mom felt it was important that her son come out and vote.

“I thought it was good just to expose him to the process,” she said.

One of her biggest concerns was equal representation for the five villages of NOTL.

Anthony Orsini and Rosalyn Reid were voting at St. Davids Public School.

They shared Wickabrod’s view that you need to vote if you want to complain.

Orsini’s biggest concerns were the town’s development, wasteful spending and tourism plans.

Reid on the other hand was worried about “local economics and what we do when there’s another COVID wave.”

She said the town needs to stay as open as possible because so much of NOTL’s economy is based on tourism, which took a big hit during the first waves of the pandemic.

Reid said she was going to support Vaughn Goettler for lord mayor.

Armstrong was also concerned about NOTL’s economy and the impor-

tance of “supporting the local merchants.”

Amy Oppenlaender was at St. Davids with her daughter Eleanor.

Oppenlaender said she’d be voting for Gary Zalepa, adding she and her partner were “looking for a little bit of change.”

“As a teacher, I would focus on anything that had to do with children, especially having a younger child,” she said.

She added she was supporting Kate Baggott for school trustee, as she’s had the opportunity to work with her and appreciates the work she does.

Oppenlaender said she was backing incumbent Erwin Wiens because her partner is a farmer and it is important to her family to have someone on council fighting on behalf of the agricultural community.

Like Orsini, development was an issue top of mind for Zena Samuels.

She wants to see more roads, waterlines and sewers installed to accommodate all the new developments in town.

At the same time, Samuels was worried her home would lose its rural feel if

growth escalates quickly.

Andrew Dionne was at St. Davids to cast his vote for Zalepa.

“Betty had her four years. We don’t think she’s performed,” Dionne said.

He wasn’t happy with the town’s spending on legal fees when his friend was still waiting to be connected to a water line.

Tricia Apostolon was there with her family to vote and short-term rentals were an issue for her.

“We are interested in doing (a short-term rental) and there’s a lot of restrictions in the area,” she said.

At the community centre, the after-work crowds was pouring in.

Nellie Keeler hopes the new council will focus more on agriculture.

“It’s always the Old Town or the tourism, nothing about the agriculture,” she said.

She’s worried about development in rural Niagara-on-the-Lake destroying good, fertile soil so nothing will be able to grow on it in the future.

“It’s all been destroyed. And council is not doing a darn thing about it,” she said.

As she made her way to the community centre, Teri Watson said, “Tourism is important to me, that they get it right in this town.”

She also wants the town to stay as it is.

“People that have moved here and are moving here and there and people who visit – it’s because of the charm of the town,” she said.

“There’s not many towns like this.”

In Queenston, most of the voters came early in the day, according to Tiffany Carbone, the tabulator clerk at the polling station in Queenston.

The poll had some technical issues at around 6 p.m., but they were cleared up quickly.

She worked at the advance polls in the community centre and said it was busy.

“From the moment before we opened until about four hours later it was a solid line of people,” she said.

“We did over 1,100 (people),” she added.

According to the Town of NOTL, almost 48 per cent of the town’s 15,996 eligible voters cast ballots in this election.

With files by Somer Slobodian.

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# Councillors eager to hit the ground running

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

## ELECTION '22

People cheered as re-elected Coun. Erwin Wiens walked into the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre auditorium Monday night with his wife, Dorothy Soo-Wiens.

He received a total of 4,978 votes, finishing on top and will be deputy lord mayor.

"I did not anticipate having the result to have almost 5,000 votes," said Wiens.

He said he was proud of his campaign, which consists of just himself and his wife.

"I'm beyond grateful for the trust that people have (in us)," Soo-Wiens said through tears.

"The town put a lot of trust in us," her husband agreed.

Wiens and other newly elected councillors said they are looking forward to hitting the ground running.

Agriculture, the town's official plan and a formal tourism strategy will be some of his main focuses, Wiens said.

He wants to improve communication, clean up litigation and set key priorities for the town.

Because, "if everything's a priority, nothing's a priority," he said.

Gary Burroughs followed Wiens, receiving 4,273 votes. This is his eighth election and he said he's ready to continue giving it his all.

"The biggest thing is still all transportation and tourism," he said.

Communication with residents, staff and media are also important, he said.

So is development. "One of the main goals is streetscape," he said.



Top: Residents and candidates await results of the election at the NOTL Community Centre on Monday night. Bottom left: Wendy Cheropita celebrates her victory at the Sandtrap pub, where several candidates went to mingle. EVAN LOREE/SOMER SLOBODIAN

"Whatever you're planning to build, either an individual or a bunch of houses, it has to fit what the street looks like," he added.

It doesn't have to be exact, but it shouldn't be a huge home amid a bunch of bungalows, he said.

Wendy Cheropita followed with 3,774 votes, Tim Balasiuk with 3,742 and Sandra O'Connor with 3,391.

"I think the residents have spoken," said Cheropita.

"What they've said is that 'We want new leadership.' That's very clear," she added.

She said she's looking forward to working with the new council and with the new lord mayor. But first, she wants some much-

needed down time after two months of campaigning.

On Monday night at the community centre, as O'Connor walked closer to the big screen to view the results, people came up to congratulate her.

"I feel good that I'll be able to continue some of the platform issues that I said I would," she said.

That includes environment, health care and development issues, she said.

"There were some good people who didn't get on that I thought deserved it, or did a lot of work for the town," she said.

"But I'm going to work with everybody. That's my motto," she said.

Former NOTL fire chief

Nick Ruller finished behind O'Connor with 3,318 votes, followed by Adriana Cater Vizzari with 3,152 and Maria Mavridis with 2,897.

It was a close call between Mavridis and incumbent Allan Bisback, but in the end Bisback lost the final council seat by 66 votes.

"I'm hoping to get started and gather information (to) see where we're at as a council and as a town," said Mavridis.

"And then, of course, you know, I'd love to begin and get into the tourism strategy and the master transportation plan," she added.

New Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and council take office on Nov. 15 and their inauguration is Nov. 22.

# NOTL again has highest voter turnout in region

Evan Loree  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Voter turnout in Niagara-on-the-Lake for this year's municipal election was just under 48 per cent, the highest in the region, again.

A total of 7,644 ballots were cast across town. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario says NOTL had 16,100 registered voters.

In the 2018 election, 8,304 people voted.

NOTL had the highest voter turnout of any municipi-

pality in Niagara Region.

However, turnout was actually down nearly 10 percentage points in NOTL from 2018, when about 58 per cent of the town turned out to vote.

This year, West Lincoln had the next highest turnout

with 43.55 per cent, followed by Wainfleet (41.6), Grimsby (37.54), Fort Erie (34.36), Pelham (32.62), Port Colborne (31.59), Lincoln (27.69), Niagara Falls (27.53), St. Catharines (26.31), Welland (25.82) and Thorold (24.68).

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NOTL firefighter Jeff Rutnan puts sand down to cover the spill on the road. RICHARD HARLEY

## Harvester wrapped in political messaging **breaks down** on Queen

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report


A political message gone wrong or political karma? A berry harvester driven by NOTL farmers Michael and Sukyi Watson broke down on Queen Street on the morning of Monday's municipal election. Watson had the rig draped with flags that said "VOTE disero (sic) OUT." He told a reporter he

planned to park the machine to make a statement while getting his mail. But after having to make a sudden stop on the street, the machine broke down and started spilling hydraulic fluid all over the road. NOTL firefighters and police were on scene and put sand on the road to cover the slippery substance. Watson was able to get his machine off the road a short while later.

# FOUR MILE PIZZA

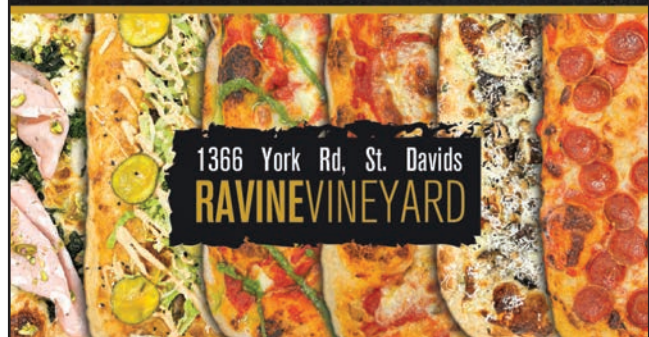
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# After four years, Disero **passes mayoral torch**

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

It was a good run. The past four years have no doubt been some of the toughest for Niagara-on-the-Lake Lord Mayor Betty Disero. The COVID pandemic was an unprecedented period for those in public service and government. But she still gave it her all. Disero finished second with 2,586 votes in Monday's municipal election, 1,138 votes behind Gary Zalepa. Vaughn Goettler was third with 1,268 votes. It was her first election loss in a career that dates back to the mid-1980s. Disero also served four



Betty Disero.

years as a NOTL councillor starting in 2014, prior to defeating incumbent mayor Pat Dante in 2018. When The Lake Report reached out for comment from Disero after Monday's loss, she didn't return repeated calls, texts or voicemails from reporters. When a reporter visited her home to try to speak

with her, Disero left her front porch and shut the door. According to councillor-elect Maria Mavridis, Disero was at home all night Monday, only stopping by Corks Wine Bar & Eatery briefly to congratulate Mavridis and former fire chief Nick Ruller on their election wins. "I think she was literally there for a couple of minutes. And then she left," Mavridis said. "It was just my family and tight friends. And so they were pretty surprised at the results, but they wished her well and congratulated her on a good campaign and thanked her for the last four

## **ELECTION '22**

years," she said. Disero campaign manager Debi Pratt was home sick with COVID, but was surprised and disappointed when she saw the results. "I felt that Betty had worked so hard for four years and had made such strides and achievements," she said. "She's a person who gives 100 per cent and when we talk about a full-time mayor she certainly has the qualifications that when she commits to doing something she does it completely," she added. Zalepa and council take office on Nov. 15 and their inauguration is Nov. 22.

# Zalepa wins election with **3,724** votes

Continued from Front Page

That's when Dowd told him what the screenshot showed, confirming his victory. "Oh my God, it was so thrilling," she said. Zalepa said his first thought was, "Is this really happening?" Everyone jumped into their cars and headed to "election central" at the community centre. There, the crowd of about 50 residents and a handful of candidates had already started to thin out after the final results went up on the screens at 9:08 p.m.

When the new lord mayor-elect walked through the doors of the community centre at 9:18, the applause, cheers and hugs helped it all sink in. "It's kind of surreal," Zalepa told The Lake Report moments later. "I'm a bit overwhelmed." As he stood in the middle of the auditorium, with friends and supporters swirling around, he received the first of many congratulatory phone calls. It was his son Nathan, a Royal Canadian Navy officer stationed in Esquimalt, B.C., calling to find out how it went. "We won," his elated dad shouted, grinning from ear to ear.




Gary Zalepa and Erwin Wiens celebrate their victories at the Sandtrap pub Monday night. DOROTHY SOO-WIENS

Tuesday's official results showed Zalepa received 3,724 votes (49 per cent), topping Disero by 1,138 votes. Disero polled 2,586 votes (34 per cent) and political newcomer Vaughn Goettler received 1,268 votes (17 per cent). Zalepa led the race all night but early totals were close. Initial results, including the advance polls, gave him a 112-vote lead. Then the gap widened to a few hundred. But when the final handful of polls were posted on the community centre screens his lead had zoomed into a landslide.


The race for council was a little tighter. Erwin Wiens topped the polls with 4,978 votes, followed by Gary Burroughs (4,273), Wendy Cheropita (3,774), Tim Balasiuk (3,742), Sandra O'Connor (3,391), Nick Ruller (3,318), Adriana Cater Vizzari (3,152) and Maria Mavridis (2,897). By garnering the most votes as a councillor candidate, Wiens will be the new deputy lord mayor. With three other incumbents retiring, the result brings a substantially new look to council, with Balasiuk, Ruller, Cater Vizzari and Mavridis all political rookies. Incumbent council can-

didate Allan Bisback, with 2,831 votes, lost his seat, finishing 66 votes behind Mavridis. Results for the other councillor candidates were: John McCallum (2,481 votes), Richard Mell (2,079), Alistair Harlond (1,979) and Katherine Reid (1,645). Andrea Kaiser will be the town's new regional councillor after earning 3,100 votes (44 per cent). Paolo Miele was second with 1,709 and William Roberts was third with 1,134. Even though they dropped out of the regional race before election day, Pat Dante (910 votes) and Barbara Worthy (187), attracted some support, polling more than 1,000 votes. In the race for Niagara District School Board trustee (representing NOTL and St. Catharines), Lora Campbell, Kate Baggott, Jonathan Fast and Alex Bradnam were elected. Natalia Benoit and Larry Huibers won the race for the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Voter turnout was 47.79 per cent, down substantially from about 58 per cent who cast ballots in 2018. The term for the new lord mayor and council begins Nov. 15 and their inaugural meeting is scheduled for Nov. 22.



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# Goettler in good spirits after third-place finish

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

## ELECTION '22

Coming in third in the municipal race for lord mayor wasn't what Vaughn Goettler envisioned.

But still, the retired businessman was in good spirits Monday night as election results became clear that Gary Zalepa would be Niagara-on-the-Lake's new lord mayor.

Goettler hosted a party to watch the results at his home on Ricardo Street. In total, he earned 1,268 votes, or 16.73 per cent of the ballots cast for mayor.

He said he doesn't really feel like he lost.

"I don't play to lose," Goettler said during a speech to guests after the results were finalized.

The second thing he wanted to do was shake up the race, he said.

And he feels he accomplished that.

"I didn't try and say it too broadly at the beginning, but I had two goals. Number one was to be elected — I don't come out to lose, I honestly don't," he said.

"You know what they say, second place is first to lose. And I'm not even second place, so damn, you know, that's really bad.

But the truth of the matter is, I came out to win. The (goal) was for me to win, or to change the game."

"And you did," someone in the crowd said, to echoes and applause.

"I really did run to make a change in this town,"



Vaughn Goettler watches the election results with a crowd of supporters. RICHARD HARLEY

Goettler said. "And I do absolutely love this town."

He talked about how he and his wife Lauren purchased their home with "about 10 minutes of thinking" between them and how they hope NOTL will be their last stop in life.

He thanked his supporters and campaign workers for their help, as well as the many people he said talked with him about the issues NOTL residents care about.

He entered the race late, filing his nomination papers Aug. 17, two days before the deadline.

"I was invited or connected with people who helped me learn about our community in a way that I could never have done," the political rookie said.

"People have been kind enough to connect me with people who have taken their time to help me learn."

"So many of you have been so kind with that time. And that's something for which I'm eternally grateful."

"If I could do it again, I'd do it again. Was it easy? It was not easy. It was very difficult and I think that I probably, hopefully, will have a really good sleep tonight," he said to laughs.

Victorious council candidates Wendy Chero-pita, Sandra O'Connor and Erwin Wiens also were among those who stopped by Goettler's place.

Earlier in the evening, as the initial votes came in, Goettler had some similar sentiments to his final speech.

"From my standpoint, it has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my life. I've come to know the town in a way that I think very few people in the town, whether they're old timers or newcomers, have had a chance to learn it," he said.

"Because I couldn't run unless I tried to speak to everybody I could who could educate me. And I feel like I know the issues. I know the soul and the heart

of the town. And I feel like regardless what comes out of this election, I'm in a great position to try and help the town."

A theme among his supporters during the night was that despite losing the election, some of Goettler's talking points during the campaign could be on the new council's agenda.

Among his priorities were creating a tourism plan that focuses on making NOTL a world-class destination and demanding that the province ensure NOTL isn't subject to the same density targets as big cities.

"I sure hope so," he said, adding he will work with the new council members in any way he can.

"I tried to address the issues that people were bringing to me," he said.

"And I feel now like I have a much better picture of the town and a much better understanding of what really is important and what we need to do to protect what we have."

# Kaiser wins regional council race with 44% of votes

Julia Sacco  
The Lake Report

Andrea Kaiser built a steady lead early Monday evening in the race for regional councillor but was hesitant to declare victory until all the polls had reported.

"I feel pretty good," she said. "You never know until all the votes are in, but I've always appreciated the experience."

Her early lead held and grew over the hour or so between the polls closing at



Andrea Kaiser, right, embraces fellow winner Gary Zalepa. EVAN LOREE

8 p.m. and the full results being posted at 9:08 p.m.

She garnered 3,100 votes, 44 per cent of the regional ballots cast, for a sweeping

victory over Paolo Miele (1,709) and William Roberts (1,134).

Kaiser said her experience watching the results at the community centre in her hometown of Niagara-on-the-Lake was an especially sweet part of the election.

"Niagara-on-the-Lake is a really special community. As corny as it sounds, there's something truly magical about it," she said. "I grew up here and I love the town."

As regional councillor, she said, one of her

goals will be to try to give regional issues and decisions a higher profile among NOTL residents.

Kaiser's support system was there to celebrate the victory with her, including her daughter Madison, whom she shared a warm embrace with as the final numbers were announced.

"I am really thankful, it's going to be a great opportunity," said Kaiser.

"I love Niagara and so I'm looking forward to representing Niagara-on-the-Lake."

## Message from Vaughn



I would like to thank all of you who took your civic duty seriously enough to exercise your right and obligation to vote in this election.

Voting is the most precious gift that we all have from those who paved the way for us to have a free and democratic society.

I also thank my family and the friends, who became my campaign team, for always putting our best foot forward and doing a terrific job, regardless of how the odds looked. That really is the true test of commitment.

Let us all celebrate our accomplishments as engaged citizens and begin working together with the new council to build the best NOTL that we can.

Again, my sincere thanks to all of you.  
Vaughn Goettler

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Poppy Trust Fund Report  
Oct. 1, 2021 to Oct. 1, 2022

Balance in Branch Poppy Trust Funds	
as of Oct. 1, 2021.....	\$41,584.15
Income from Campaign & all other Sources.....	\$24,165.25
Campaign Expenses & Youth Education Program.....	\$40.19
Veterans Support from Fund.....	\$31,628.99
Balance as of Sept. 30, 2022.....	\$34,280.22



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

## COVID Tracker

**NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 49**  
**Region active cases: 939**  
**Region deaths: 629**  
**Region total cases: 47,474**

*\*Oct. 26 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**  
 "Just living is not enough...one must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower."  
 - Hans Christian Anderson

## HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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## Foggy morning in St. Davids



Lake Report photographer Dave Van de Laar captured this image of fog rolling over a farm in St. Davids on Tuesday after the election.

## Editorial

# New council needs to listen and act

Richard Harley  
 Editor-In-Chief

It was one heck of an election.

Politics is always a battle, whether it's loud and public, or just a quiet debate behind the scenes or out in the community.

This municipal election was no exception — and there were plenty of issues and viewpoints to be debated.

And, as evident by Niagara-on-the-Lake's strong voter turnout (again, the highest in the region), people have issues that matter to them. A lot.

The fact people are paying attention and engaged is good news. Democracy wins.

Now, it's up to our new council to listen to those engaged residents — and then act on their behalf and in their interests. It's not about you, it's about them.

We sincerely hope our politicians are willing to challenge the status quo, charge at windmills occasionally, and make sure

NOTL puts up a fight to protect its past and guide its future to success.

For example, politicians can't just blithely accept the advice of every staff or region expert on every issue.

Some issues, like the St. Davids roundabout, may seem good on paper or in theory.

The proposed roundabout might well eliminate some traffic congestion, but when people in the neighbourhood are screaming "No!" then perhaps those experts haven't given consideration to factors that are beyond their purview.

Dear councillors and new lord mayor: Please, never forget that the people of Niagara-on-the-Lake are the ones who elected you. It's your job to represent their concerns.

And let's not get along too well. Consensus is great, but council need not be a campfire singalong. There's a need for respectful, reasoned debate.

With regard to the looming threat of municipalities losing the power to control

increased density targets set by the developer-friendly Doug Ford regime, NOTL needs to stand strong and tell Ford we as a town will not bend.

This legislation was only announced Tuesday, so it has not yet been implemented.

In NOTL, it's time for smart management of growth and pushing dense developments away from historical enclaves.

And when it comes to secondary dwellings, there is no room for special treatment of some stakeholder groups. Just because secondary dwellings could provide profit to greedy, absent rental operators doesn't mean they should be allowed to be operated as rentals.

We must fight to keep our homes as homes.

That may mean finding solutions and working with developers to put in more legitimate hotel accommodations in the remaining spaces we have, finding creative ways to earn money for the town with its unused

properties (think parking at the old hospital).

Those are some of the issues threatening Niagara-on-the-Lake. And we cannot bow to profit-driven ideologies when it comes to our residential homes.

On a side note, as the next lord mayor, Gary Zalepa, who is a realtor, might find himself having to declare a conflict of interest on decisions regarding the legality of operating short-term rentals.

It is true that people buying homes to operate as for-profit businesses artificially drive up home prices and therefore those policies could create a conflict for him.

But looking ahead, we wish the new mayor and councillors all the best in what is often a thankless endeavour.

And to outgoing Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Coun. Allan Bisback, we offer thanks for your hard work and the many, many hours you spent on behalf of the people of NOTL..

editor@niagaranow.com

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The NOTL Ambassadors program is seeking more volunteers to help out. FILE PHOTO

## War of 1812 anniversary committee also had ambassadors program

Dear editor:

For a couple of years now, there have been articles in the papers about the NOTL Ambassadors program, indicating that they were started by a group at the Shaw.

I congratulate the group on their success and continued growth.

They add a welcoming touch for the tourists.

However, in fact it was a small group associated with the 1812-1814 anniversary committee that started this initiative as part of the overall commemoration of the war.

Organized by Lorraine Joyner, a group of about 20 people dressed in period costume greeted the visitors, promoted

our town and its history, suggested restaurants and points of interest, posed for lots of pictures and talked about commemorative events.

Around 2014, the town council was asked if we could continue.

My understanding is that councillors were not supportive of the program.

Those of us who did participate enjoyed the experience immensely, meeting people quite literally from around the world.

There were also lots of funny stories to share. I just wanted to give credit where credit was due – to the 1812-1814 committee.

**Bud Moulson**  
Virgil

## Appreciated article about allegations against mayor

Dear editor:

Thank you for your outstanding article about Lord Mayor Betty Disero and allegations involving a bylaw complaint filed by her husband, (“Secret recording claims Disero knew about husband’s complaint,” Oct. 20).

One of the only things that surprised me was Disero’s insistence that former town administrator Sheldon Randall’s allegations are part of yet another smear campaign.

Possibly disgraced former U.S. president Richard Nixon is the only politician who faced more smear campaigns than Disero.

And might I suggest the creation of a competence commission to monitor the integrity commission led by lawyer Edward McDermott.

McDermott: “Are you lying?”

Disero: “No, I’m not.”

McDermott: “Well, OK then.”

**Reid Maltby**  
NOTL

## Adjusting to a future with COVID-19

Dear editor:

In a presentation that I attended last week Dr. Mustafa Hirji, the acting chief medical officer of health for Niagara Region, shared a number of important messages regarding the future of COVID and how we need to adjust to deal with it and future viruses.

I thought they would be of interest to our community.

While we have made progress in mitigating the serious health effects of COVID -19, it is here to stay and we need to be creative in finding ways to live with it and other contagious viruses. There are lessons from the past that may be helpful.

COVID is the third-leading cause of death in Canada, behind heart disease and cancer, and much more lethal than the flu, which is ranked seventh.

While current infection rates and deaths are not at the highest levels, the cases of infections and death are increasing, due to a number of factors.

There are new variants and the medications to treat them are not as effective as they were on earlier strains.

Complicating matters further, the populace believes that “it is over” and people are tired of restrictions and wearing masks, leading to carelessness and growth in cases.

As well, people are gathering in large groups, attending cinemas, concerts and family and other



Bill Garriock says we need to find creative ways to live safely with COVID-19. FILE

events, without the most basic of protection – the facial mask.

Our health care system continues under pressure and is diminished in its ability to treat not only COVID but other diseases plus normal medical needs and services.

Hospital rooms, and at times, even entire departments, are being closed due to staff shortages caused by both burnout and the disease itself.

Not only is the presence of the virus affecting health care, but it has a negative impact on the economy, with not enough workers to staff numerous businesses and service organizations.

Creative solutions are needed for us as a society to move forward. Two in particular are of note.

The first, improving the circulation and cleaning of air in offices, work environ-

ments, schools and wherever people meet in numbers.

The lesson for this comes from the early 1900s where implementing sanitation measures, clean water supplies and sewage removal and treatment, led to a substantial and noticeable decline in illness and death.

We know from tracking carbon dioxide levels when we are in closed spaces that levels increase over time. COVID particles in the air behave in the same way.

To mitigate the presence of the virus droplets, new air-handling systems to refresh and clean the air need to be installed in all buildings, much like plumbing and sewage removal systems were implemented in the early 1900s.

New building codes and regulations would solidify the importance of improving the quality of the air we breathe and would reduce

the presence of contagious viruses.

A second approach is to minimize the transfer of viruses by encouraging sick people who are contagious to stay at home until they are well.

Many, particularly those who earn lower wages or salaries, cannot afford to do that. The solution is to compensate them for lost time when the virus is contagious, recognizing that by staying home the individual is not spreading the disease and is contributing to the safety and good health of fellow workers.

COVID-19, its variants and other viruses are here to stay. We need to adjust to this new reality, recognize the risks involved, and search for solutions that will enable us to return to more of a pre- COVID life.

**Bill Garriock**  
NOTL

## Planning, development and NOTL’s future

Dear editor:

The provincial Planning Act has the final say on all development in the province, including the town.

Niagara-on-the-Lake’s official plan, although important, does not have the final say.

Development in this town is also controlled by: zoning bylaws, the Municipal Drainage Act, the Heritage Act, the Niagara Parks Commission, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and the Region of Niagara.

Unless a member of council is prepared to familiarize themselves with all of these, they should not be on council.

There are also many other matters in which a councillor must become knowledgeable.

It has been our experience that a number of the past councillors did not do their homework and only relied on staff reports and consultants.

We can only hope that this will not be the case with this new council.

We also have a question about the town’s official plan.



Why does the plan have to coincide with the region’s official plan, when many of the issues that affect our town may not be the same as the rest of the region?

A major challenge for

this council is to work with the province on changes or exemptions to the sections of the Planning Act that are having a negative affect on our town.

**Sue and Kip Voegel**  
NOTL

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# Fond farewell and a historic **building worth saving**



Brian Marshall  
Columnist

In a recent conversation, Jon Kormos described William (Bill) German as the finest crafter of traditional furniture and cabinetry that he has ever dealt with.

And, as one of the former owners of a nationally respected antique dealership, Jon would know.

But, it's not only Jon's opinion, Bill German's reputation for the quality of his work is widely held across Niagara and many points abroad. Over 50 years, his commissions have been installed in a plethora of heritage buildings both here in Niagara-on-the-Lake and "away."

Now 64, Bill began

his love affair with fine woodworking at the young age of 14 and never looked back. He refined his skills through practice – studying the work and techniques of those crafters he considered pre-eminent in the field – and his relentless pursuit of perfection.

His pursuit of quality can amply be demonstrated by his self-description of being "vertically integrated," that is, his pieces begin with logs, which he cures in a traditional fashion and mills into lumber, from there he selects his wood and crafts it into finished pieces.

He controls every step of the process to achieve a result he can be satisfied with.

He admits his approach may not be the best business practice if you measure success by making lots of money, but creating finely crafted, top-quality work has provided him with a happy and fulfilling career.

And Bill believes it's important to share craft knowledge and expertise, particularly with



This home needs to be saved, says columnist Brian Marshall.

younger generations and accordingly he has taught woodworking programs at Willowbank School of Restoration Arts over the years.

About 40 years ago, Bill and his wife Tracy acquired a circa 1880 home originally owned by a master carpenter (which Bill suggested was kismet) on Queenston Road.

On the large lot, he constructed a workshop that would house his business. Over the years, the

couple completely restored the three-bay, end-gabled historic clapboard house.

Unfortunately for the Germans, their home and property was in relatively close proximity to the Garden City Skyway bridge, land that would be required in the event that bridge is twinned.

And because that infrastructure project has been given the green light by the province, the government has acquired the title to the property.

Tracy and Bill German are planning their move to Nova Scotia, where they have their eye on a late 18th-century house. I say Nova Scotia's gain is our loss. Still, I wish them godspeed and happy days.

However, as we extend our best wishes to the Germans, a question remains: what will be the fate of the century and a half old piece of NOTL's built-heritage they leave behind?

Certainly, the likelihood of successfully force-designating a building owned by the province is extremely unlikely (not to mention that force-designation should only be undertaken as a desperate last resort, in my opinion).

Other options to ensure the survival of this historic home should be explored.

For example, this town has a long history of lifting and moving historic houses. Is that a potential option if a potential purchaser is found and the province is willing?

While I realize that the election has just finished and our elected representatives still have to "find

their feet in office," I believe the town needs to immediately initiate discussions with the province to determine where they stand on the future of this house.

It's a piece of our architectural heritage.

**Correction:** On a completely different topic, one of the Arch-i-text's readers reached out concerning part of last week's column on Chautauqua. He suggested, supported by historic maps, that the Chautauqua Hotel was actually located east side of the One Mile Pond in the vicinity of Lansdowne Avenue and the second hotel, Lakeside House, was at the foot of Shakespeare.

To be frank, I was working off the "Map of Grounds" belonging to the Niagara Assembly on which the Shakespeare lot was identified as "Hotel Reservation" which I assumed (and we all know how that word breaks down) was the location of the Chautauqua Hotel.

My apologies for the error and my thanks to our knowledgeable reader.

## THANK YOU

"On behalf of Team Elect Gary Zalepa, thank you to all of our supporters, volunteers and most importantly residents that we met at the door(s) when canvassing and engaged throughout the campaign period. It was a wonderful experience. Thank you to all of the candidates who put their name forward, it is a huge commitment and to see all the enthusiasm was exciting! Congratulations to those elected, and we look forward to forming the new Council. We feel the responsibility of leadership, look forward to getting started, and appreciate the opportunity to better our community, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake."





# Walk near Brock clears the electoral mind. **But that apostrophe?**



## Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson  
Columnist

During the exhaustingly long municipal election campaign, now thankfully and democratically over, I tried to keep my rambling mind focused on important issues.

I fought the urge to spend time worried about xenophobic, parochial and nitpicking things such as where candidates were living five or 10 years ago. How insular and petty.

Surely we NOTLers are bigger than this. Migawd, someone from north of Lake Ontario should have useful ideas? Quelle horreur ... How about folks who arrived here from overseas? Not that long ago, friends. Only a generation

or two of immigration and here we are ... Lucky us.

Can we even imagine our little corner of Canada without the input and energy provided by our very own Si Wai Lai and her brother? Spend some time in our downtown gem, perfect Simcoe Park.

Before their generosity and vision blessed us, it was very tired and terribly under enjoyed. Now, locals and visitors from around the world fill the park on pleasant days, even when the weather is not perfect.

And the elegant hotels and watering holes they provided. The unique statue to George Bernard Shaw himself.

The stars aligned, and with classy hotels, wineries, golf courses, Balzac's, bucolic surroundings and the world renowned Shaw Festival – voila! The hometown we luckily love.

It's difficult to imagine our wee Niagara-on-the-Lake if so many Mennonites had not chosen our region as their place to farm and live. Our culture, our sports, our schools would all be less vibrant



It's not really "Brock's" monument now, is it? It's the Brock Monument. ROSS ROBINSON

and meaningful. And our politics ...

I took a mental break from local politics and spent part of a perfect morning ruminating under the towering Brock's Monument. And why is there an apostrophe included in the name? He never owned the monument.

In discussion with a friend from the Niagara Parks Commission, I learned that

the monument is owned and maintained by Parks Canada and the parks commission. It may be parsing words, but I believe the tax-paying citizens of Canada "own" the monument.

Rambling off topic now, each autumn I have the same philosophical inner debate regarding the removal of tennis nets.

"Oh, the Memorial Park courts are owned by the

town," I am told by wise people.

I respond: "We, the taxpayers, are the town. So, we should have some input into this schedule. The town is not some amorphous body. WE are the town and when there are a few beautiful days in December, January, February and March, we want to enjoy the fellowship of our favourite game." Enough side rambling.

In New Zealand, overlooking Poverty Bay and the Pacific Ocean, the James Cook Monument marks the spot the explorer made landfall. In Quebec City, the Samuel de Champlain statue does him proud. The Washington Monument dominates the Mall in America's capital, just east of the Lincoln Memorial and the Jefferson Memorial.

And no apostrophe in site. My daughter recently sent me a postcard, featuring the Eiffel Tower. Even without a possessive marker, she managed to find a postage stamp (un timbre) and affix it before mailing. Such a clever young woman.

Some Canadian students choose to study at Simon Fraser University in B.C., or McMaster in Hamilton. Yes, Bishop's University in Quebec uses the possessive. It is confusing.

Why does Brock's Monument have an apostrophe? Probably because it always had one.

Maybe I should go up to the library at Brock's University to do some more research.

**"I am grateful and humbled by the support the Town has shown me. As your deputy mayor, I will continue to advocate for our community and all of our residents.**

**Thank you  
Niagara-on-the-Lake."  
- Erwin Wiens**





Left: Brookwood Military Cemetery in England, where Frederick Grafton is buried. Right: Grafton was a captain in the Algonquin Regiment, defending the Leopold Canal, when he was fatally injured. COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

# THE MONUMENTS MEN

## Adopted sons of Niagara

*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

Niagara-on-the-Lake's memorial clock tower cenotaph commemorates three men who were not permanent residents or natives of Niagara.

These men were members of the Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR) and were stationed at Camp Niagara on the Commons when they enlisted in the Canadian Army Active Force, volunteering to be sent overseas at the beginning of the Second World War.

On the eve of the Second World War, the land forces of Canada consisted of two elements: the Non-Permanent Active Militia (NPAM), part-time soldiers, and the Permanent Active Militia (PAM), regular full-time men.

Each summer at Camp Niagara members of the part-time militia lived under canvas and were trained by permanent force members of the Dragoons, Artillery or Royal Canadian Regiment.

In many cases the wives of permanent force members found lodging in Niagara-on-the-Lake to be with their husbands each summer. Some became permanent residents.

Joseph Hall, George Dinwiddie and Frederick Grafton were all members of the Royal Canadian Regiment and they are commemorated on the cenotaph.

Frederick William Grafton was born on March 9, 1909, and attended school in Hamilton.

He was employed by the Royal Bank of Canada as a shipping clerk at the time of his enlistment in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regiment, a Non-Permanent Active Militia force headquartered in Hamilton.

Grafton served with that regiment from April 11, 1927, to April 3, 1929. During his time with the Argylls he decided to become a full-time soldier.

On April 4, 1929, he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Regiment, living from fall to spring in Stanley Barracks in Toronto and spending the summer at Camp Niagara.

At some point he met Dorothy Prestidge, daughter

of a coachman from Toronto, but now she was a resident of Niagara.

Dorothy was a riding instructor contracted by the government to help teach officers at Camp Niagara how to ride a horse. Undoubtedly this is how the couple met.

He was teaching infantry soldiers while she was teaching the officers. The couple married at St. Mark's on Nov. 8, 1937.

Just prior to Canada's declaration of war on Germany, Canada began to mobilize, forming the Canadian Active Service Force to send overseas. Most of the men in the Royal Canadian Regiment, including Grafton, attested to the active service force on Sept. 1, 1939.

Grafton was a good soldier with excellent leadership qualities and this was recognized by his superiors.

Immediately after enlisting with the active service force, he was promoted from private to corporal and then to acting sergeant on the same day.

On Jan. 1, 1940, now confirmed as a sergeant, he was sent to the Infantry Rifle Training Centre in Toronto as an instructor. On Oct. 17 he was promoted again, to company sergeant-major. At the same time, he was recommended for training as a commissioned officer.

From August to Novem-

ber 1941, Grafton attended the Officers' Training Centre in Brockville and on Nov. 29 he was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Regiment.

He went to Camp Borden again as an instructor and was still at Camp Borden in January when he was promoted to acting captain.

Grafton was finally sent overseas, arriving in Great Britain on Jan. 3, 1944, and placed with the Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit awaiting assignment. His wife Dorothy, in the meantime, moved in with her parents in Islington. She would never see her husband again.

Grafton was transferred to the Algonquin Regiment as a captain and accompanied the regiment to France, landing in Normandy on July 25, 1944.

On Oct. 10, as the Canadians were fighting against crack German units defending the Leopold Canal in the Battle of the Scheldt, Grafton was badly wounded by a grenade.

His left heel, thigh and arms were lacerated by shrapnel and he suffered a compound fracture of his left leg.

He was transported from the battlefield back to England. He died in hospital on Dec. 22, 1944, and was buried at Brookwood Military Cemetery in Surrey. He is commemorated on the cenotaph as an adopted son.

## Legion poppy campaign marks launch of remembrance plans

Staff  
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake branch of the Royal Canadian Legion has a series of programs planned to commemorate Remembrance Day this year.

The events during the first two weeks of November are "to remember the sacrifice of Canada's military and honour the ongoing devotion to protecting our way of life and us from those who would do us harm," NOTL Legion president Al Howse said in announcing the campaign.

This Friday, Oct. 28, the Legion will launch its annual poppy fundraiser.

"We don't sell poppies but distribute them over the next two weeks asking folks to remember our fellow soldiers, sailors and airmen/women," Howse said.

"We accept donations to our poppy trust fund at that time," he added.

Money raised goes to support veterans and families throughout the year.

The start of the annual drive will be marked by raising a poppy flag outside the town offices in Virgil, Howse said.

On Saturday, Nov. 5, the branch will hold a free dinner for all veterans, whether



they are Legion members or not.

The dinner, at the Legion branch on King Street, starts at 5:30 pm.

Tickets for guests are \$20. The branch office is distributing tickets and would like to hear from attendees by Tuesday, Nov. 1, he said.

On Nov. 3, Legion members will visit each of the three long-term care homes in Niagara-on-the-Lake for a remembrance service.

On Friday, Nov. 11, the NOTL branch will hold formal Remembrance Day services at the town's two cenotaphs.

The service at the Queen Street clock tower cenotaph starts at 10:45 a.m. and will include the placing of wreaths after the playing of "Last Post" and "Reveille."

A second service is planned at the municipal cenotaph in Queenston starting at 1 p.m.

"Over this two-week period we also will visit with Girl Guides, Brownies and Sparks," Howse said.

## Candlelight Stroll is Dec. 2

Molly Bowron  
The Lake Report

Save the date for a night of flickering candles and joining thousands walking through Old Town to support those in need.

The Chamber of Commerce's annual Candlelight Stroll will be held Friday, Dec. 2, starting at 7 p.m. on Queen Street.

Candles will be available at the start of the stroll for \$3, and canned goods and donations for Newark Neighbours will be collected, said Jessica Taylor, event manager for the chamber.

By early November the chamber will announce who will be the recipient of the charitable donations collected at this year's stroll, she said.

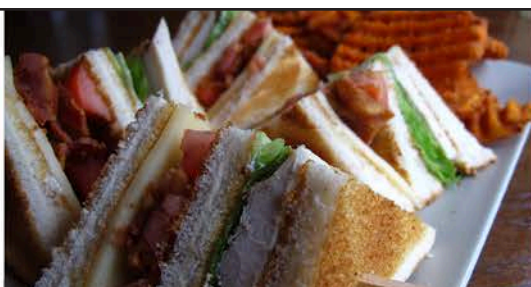
"We have gotten a lot of the community to come together and give us suggestions, which was very humbling," Taylor said.

Food vendors are a new twist added to this year's stroll, she said. In addition, both new and returning musical groups will be featured.

With the inclusion of food trucks, Taylor said, "A lot of guests arrive early and we just want to give the community an opportunity to be able to reach the guests who are joining us this year."

Many people will also be coming out to volunteer, sing and help collect donations.

"Some of these people have been doing it for years and they're fighting against the cold to do it again," said Taylor.



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# It's Halloween weekend, with **non-stop** treats

Staff  
The Lake Report

Halloween isn't till next Monday, but if Niagara-on-the-Lake kids play their cards right, they can participate in three days of almost non-stop trick-or-treating.

Of course, on the evening of Oct. 31, there is the traditional door-to-door trek around the community.

But starting on Saturday, some organizations around NOTL will be shelling out early.

On Saturday, Oct. 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Friends of Fort George and Parks Canada have a special Halloween at Fort George program planned.

Little goblins and ghouls are invited to wear their Halloween costumes and drop by the parking lot at Fort George where volunteers will be handing out free treat bags.

The treats come courtesy of Hendrik's and Phil's Independent Grocers, Simpson's Pharmasave, Parks



Candy will be available at several spots in NOTL before Halloween even starts. FILE

Canada and the Friends of Fort George Gift Shop.

It's also the last weekend Fort George and the Friends of Fort George Gift Shop are open for the season.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Also Saturday, from 5 to 10:30 p.m., the new NOTL Youth Campus holds a spooky double-bill movie night at Cornerstone Community Church in Virgil.

Admission includes pizza, drinks and snacks. "Hotel Transylvania 2" and "Hocus Pocus 2" will screen at 6:15 and 9 p.m.

Then on Sunday, Oct. 30, Central Community Church on York Road will host a Trunk or Treat from 6 to 8 p.m. in its parking lot.

People will hand out candy treats from their cars decked out for the occasion,

while visitors can also enjoy a barbecue, kids' inflatables and games.

Finally, if that's not sweet enough, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake plans a fun, kid-friendly Halloween day at the community centre on Monday, Oct. 31, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Activities will include a scavenger hunt, seasonal books to read – and candy.



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# FEATURED



History-seekers were out enjoying free access to various locations in NOTL on Saturday, as part of Doors Open Niagara. Some places people could visit included the NOTL Museum, Willowbank

## Quirky NOTL history on display as **Doors Open Ni**

Julia Sacco  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake is deeply rooted in the past, but some may not know about the quirky layers of antiquity layered between the major historic events everyone learns about in school.

Some of those bits of history were revealed during Doors Open Niagara last Saturday.

Organized by the Ontario Heritage Trust, Doors Open granted visitors the opportunity to enter 13 unique historic buildings around Niagara-on-the-Lake. Here are some tour highlights:

### **Willowbank**

Located off the Niagara Park-

way in Queenston, Willowbank is Canada's premier heritage conservation school and the building has a rich history prior.

Program director Caitlin Wooll took visitors through a quick history of the building.

Beginning in 1836, the home belonged to Anna and Alex Hamilton. When Alex died, Anna was left with 11 children and little money, but she managed to keep Willowbank afloat.

After the house passed through the Hamilton family, it was purchased by the affluent Bright family, who reoriented the house. After that, the home appeared to have dual facades on each side.

"They reoriented the home to

face the Parkway, which had just been finished," said Wooll.

Between then and now, it housed nuns, became Appleton Boys School and finally became Willowbank – and was saved from demolition.

"They are layers of every single owner who has been in this house," said student JoJo Keus.

"If you go upstairs and open up the doors to the attic, there's a spiral staircase and the wall there is painted with blue and yellow polka dots. We think it was from the boys school."

### **Clare's Harley-Davidson**

Appearing to be a typical Harley store, this chopper retailer at 590 York Rd. has history all around it.

Beginning as the CMC Christian Music Company, the building still contains many original pieces of history, including original window panes used as a skylight.

The real star of the show, however, is the recreation of Diana Sweets Restaurant of St. Catharines, which closed in 1996, snug at the back of the store.

"Diana Sweets lives among the hogs," said marketing and advertising head Lisa Taché.

"We got everything. We got all the wood, the cups, the saucers, the uniforms, the creams, the sugars, the banana split bowls. All of it."

Many people stop by just to take a look at their old beloved hangout.

"When people went to Diana Sweets back in the day, they carve their names in the wood that's a serious thing here. People come in and they look for their names," said Taché.

### **Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery**

Unmistakably a piece of history, Ravine's Woodruff house stands tall in the centre of the property, 1366 York Rd., welcoming guests to a unique winery experience.

"One of the most historical things here is our Woodruff house, which was not originally on the property," said Rita Krasovec, an employee in retail wine-tasting.

"When Norma Jane and Bob (Harber) decided that they w-

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Bank, St. Mark's and St. Andrew's churches, the Exchange Brewery and Niagara Apothecary. JULIA SACCO PHOTOS

# Niagara invites people to visit for free

to start this winery and save the family farm from development, they remembered the house, searched it up and found out that it was sitting in a barn in pieces.”

The home was reassembled at Ravine in 2007 and is now used as a tasting room for guests, still boasting original details down to the gorgeous main fireplace.

### NOTL Museum

As we make our way into Old Town, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum is a must-see.

Housing countless artifacts ranging from the War of 1812 to the community's links to Black and Indigenous history, the museum showcases much of the history you do and don't see around Niagara.

And guests appreciate the unique look at the past.

“We're really lucky here in Niagara-on-the-Lake because we were once the capital of Canada,” said managing director and curator Sarah Kaufman.

“We were the British headquarters during the War of 1812. We were a site for training during the First and Second World Wars, so our history really links strongly into provincial and federal history.”

Wendy Sheehy and Christina D'Angelo, visiting from Toronto and Brampton, both were awed at just how unique the town's history is.

“There are so many different layers,” remarked D'Angelo.

### Old Town

Trekking through Old Town, tour highlights include the Niagara Apothecary, a Queen Street staple housing antiques and medications of the past, as well as the Exchange Brewery, which housed Niagara's first telephone exchange, the Pump House Arts Centre, and St. Mark's and St. Andrew's churches.

The history of Niagara-on-the-Lake truly does not end with the War of 1812, and thanks to Doors Open, visitors from far and wide were able to get a taste of a hyper-local, offbeat history that they may not find in textbooks.

Other locations featured in the Doors Open event can be found at [doorsopenontario.on.ca](http://doorsopenontario.on.ca)



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.  
Category: No. 5

**In 2008 this German carmaker rolled out its five millionth 5 Series, a black sedan**

Last issue: "Black Sails" & "American Gods" are originals from this heavenly sounding channel.

Answer: What is a Starz?

Answered first by: Jane Morris

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Jim Dandy, Wade Durling, Pam Dowling, Rob Hutchison, Jim Baird,

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

Email answers to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto: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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# Hail to the chief: Jay Plato is new head of NOTL fire department

Evan Loree  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

After months of searching, Niagara-on-the-Lake found its new fire chief. Right here in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Deputy chief Jay Plato has been promoted to fire chief and community emergency management co-ordinator as of this past Monday.

The town made the announcement last Thursday morning.

As the new boss, he said he is not planning on “reinventing the wheel or trying to figure out where we’re going,” because the 110-member volunteer department already has a strong master plan.

He intends to continue implementing it.

“You’ve always got to be strategically planning for the long term,” he said, but he doesn’t see the town shifting to full-time firefighters any time soon.

“The volunteer model is effective. And in my personal opinion, we’ve got the best-trained, most professional volunteers in the entire province,” he added.



Jay Plato, the town’s new fire chief, says the 110-member volunteer department has a strong master plan. EVAN LOREE

As the town grows, maybe a decade from now, the department might have to make some adjustments, he said.

Plato says he has a good relationship with his team of firefighters. After working with them for a few years he’s developed some strong friendships.

He got his start with the town as a building inspector

in the summer of 2014.

Before that, Plato worked for Raimondo and Associates, a Niagara-based architectural firm.

“Building and fire have always been very relatable and I didn’t realize how relatable until starting to work for the town,” he told The Lake Report in an interview.

Plato grew up in Niagara Falls and still lives there

with his wife Tammy and their two children, ages six and eight.

In May 2017, he took on the role of fire prevention and public education officer while volunteering at Fire Station 2 in St. Davids.

In 2020, he was promoted to deputy fire chief and, with Darren Trostenko, has been sharing acting chief duties since

Nick Ruller left the position in February.

Fire education and risk reduction are among his top priorities as chief, but so is “the health and wellness of our firefighters in general,” he said.

Plato holds a fire service executive management certificate from Humber College along with many other professional designations.

“Jay has been essential in overseeing fire prevention, fire and life safety education, fire investigation activities, managing municipal emergency management, and more,” Lord Mayor Betty Disero said in a media release announcing Plato’s appointment.

And chief administrator Marnie Cluckie said she is “confident that Jay’s skillset, leadership and passion for community safety will make him an excellent fire chief.”

Plato was instrumental in shaping the town’s strategic response to COVID-19, the town noted in its announcement.

As winter approaches, there is concern that cases of COVID-19 will ramp up again.

“We have full faith and trust in our public health system,” Plato said.

He and his team of volunteers have worked hard to follow public health guidelines in the past and he sees no reason to deviate from that strategy.

Disero said his “proven expertise” will make him an asset in his new role with the town.

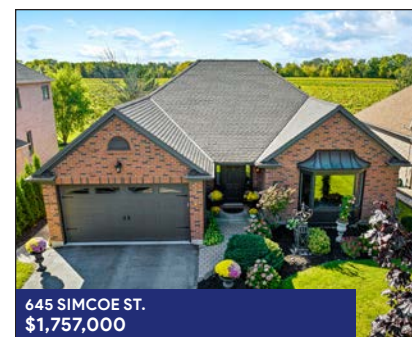
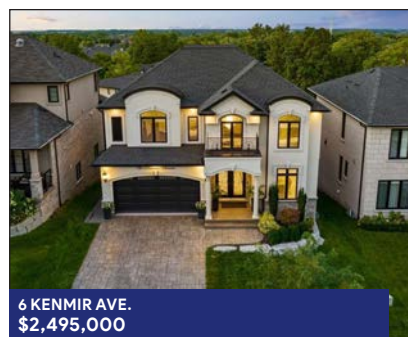
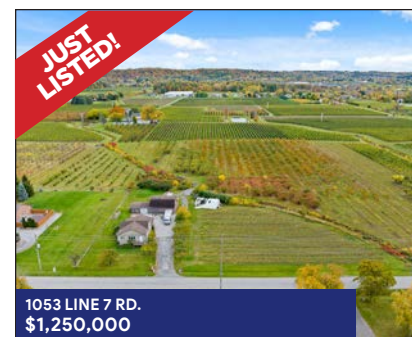
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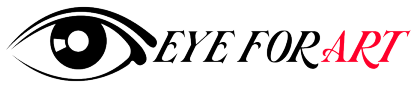
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## 'The Third of May 1808'

Penny-Lynn Cookson  
Special to The Lake Report

Armies invade. Citizens suffer. Death and destruction follow.

It is an ongoing cycle through history, including the present.

In 1807, Spain made an alliance with Napoleon and the British Duke of Wellington to conquer Portugal in what became the Peninsular War of 1808 to 1814. It was a war that would eviscerate and bankrupt Spain.

Assessing King Ferdinand VII as incompetent, unintelligent and weak, in 1808 Napoleon saw his opportunity to take Spain.

The Royal Family was carted off to a chateau in France and Napoleon's brother Joseph Bonaparte was installed as king.

In 1813, he was deposed. The French were defeated and Ferdinand VII was reinstated.

The adoring crowds were ignorant of what was to come with an illiberal

authoritarian who despised democracy, immediately annulled the Spanish Constitution of 1812, took revenge on anyone perceived as a French sympathizer, encouraged Inquisition terrors, embraced corruption and decadence and took Spain backward to the time before 1808.

Francisco Goya (1746-1828), the most important Spanish artist of his time, recorded these historical events in searing paintings, etchings and engravings that lay bare the horror and savagery of war, famine and social collapse.

In his "Caprichos" and "Los Disparates" series, scenes of religious corruption, war atrocities, starvation and degradation, reveal his fear for his country, his people and his own fragile physical and mental health.

As prime court painter, Goya needed to be seen as a loyal anti-French Spaniard so he proposed "to commemorate with my brush the exploits, the most remarkable and heroic

episodes of our glorious insurrection against the tyrant of Europe."

In 1814, he created two large paintings, "The Second of May 1808" recorded the fight in the Madrid Puerto del Sol between civilians and the despised French soldiers with their North African Mameluke allies.

"The Third of May 1808" is the execution reprisal for the riot and attack of the preceding day. This work, commemorating Spanish resistance to the French occupation, is unprecedented and considered one of the first great paintings of the modern era.

Kenneth Clark described it as a work that "can be called revolutionary in every sense of the word, in style, in subject and in intention."

Forty-three Spanish patriots have been rounded up and on the hill of Principe Pio, outside of Madrid, they are to die before a firing squad of French soldiers.



Francisco Goya, 'The Third of May 1808,' Oil on canvas, 1814, Museo del Prado, Madrid.

It is pre-dawn, a tense moment of suspended time before the volley of shots rings out. In the shadows, a regular line of soldiers armed with muzzles and fixed bayonets faces an irregular group of huddled and kneeling prisoners illuminated by a lantern.

The civilians crouch with apprehension, heads bowed, faces buried in their hands, eyes closed in prayer, one shaking an angry fist. The central figure is the kneeling man

in white shirt and yellow trousers, his arms are thrown wide in a crucifixion pose, directly confronting the executioners with an appeal or defiance.

The man next to him stares in wide-eyed disbelief at what is to happen. A Cistercian friar, hands clasped, bends over a dead man lying in a pool of blood. Other shot bodies lie nearby. More victims trudge warily up the hill and onto the scene of death.

In the words of Robert Hughes, "with this painting, the modern image of war as anonymous killing is born, and a long tradition of killing as ennobled spectacle comes to its overdue end."

*Penny-Lynn Cookson is an art historian and writer. See her new series "Spanish Exceptionalism: Spanish Art from El Greco to Picasso," from Oct. 27 to Dec. 1 on Zoom from the RiverBrink Art Museum in Queenston.*

**"Thank you for your support! It was a pleasure to see so many residents throughout the campaign. I look forward to serving as Town Councillor and working with this great new group for the betterment of NOTL!"**  
- Gary Burroughs





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# FEATURED

## Memories fade, but nursery school is **in the heart** of students

Continued from Front Page

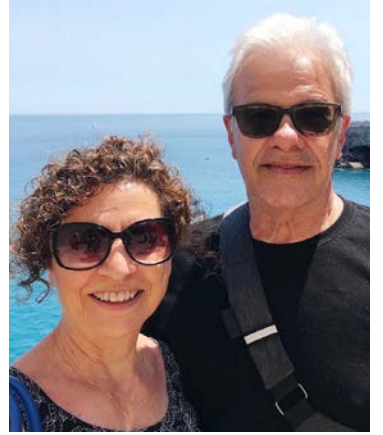
my Niagara Nursery School experience to inform my thinking about programming for my students. It wasn't called play-based learning then. It is encouraged now."

"My favourite place had all these shelves with stuff of all sizes that the parents had contributed. Now we call them loose parts," she says.

"Leftover boxes and items from the household that are used to awaken the children's imagination. Cereal boxes, salt boxes with those little pourers, egg cartons — we would pretend we were playing house or running a store."

Before landing back in Toronto, Mactaggart lived around the globe in Montreal, San Francisco, Edinburgh and Beirut. Although she and her husband have considered returning to Niagara-on-the-Lake, she doesn't think they will.

"It was very different than it is now. Completely different beings. It was very much a family town. A working-class town. We all walked and rode our bikes



Above, Jennifer Mactaggart and Kevin Bridgman at the beginning of their 50-year friendship and, right, the two of them celebrating the birth of Bridgman's first child. Far right, Anna Marie and Justin Gill are pictured on holiday in Polignano Al Mare in Puglia, Italy. Anna Marie was the Niagara Nursery School's only teacher for the 1973 school year. The school now employs 14 full-time early childhood educators. SUPPLIED PHOTOS

to school. "There are parts of the small-town community that I miss. But Niagara isn't that small town any more."

Mactaggart's mother, Terry Mactaggart, was an early consultant to the school, helping source teaching aids and materials. All three of her kids attended. With a degree in early childhood education, she even worked as a substitute teacher from time to time.

"We arrived in town in 1971," she pulls the thought from her memory. "In those days, that's how we met — at the nursery school."

"Some of my longest-held friendships were started as

parents at the school. And the kids are still friends now. It was more the parents who stayed in touch than the kids, because the kids went all over the place."

Her daughter Jennifer and Kevin Bridgman are two perfect examples of lifelong friendships nurtured at the nursery school.

Bridgman is now a nationally acclaimed architect living in Toronto, with a portfolio that includes Governor General award-winning designs.

He remembers his mother telling him: "Part of the reason I signed you up for nursery school was so that I could meet other parents

and you could meet other kids."

And it worked. Of his friendship with Jennifer Mactaggart:

"We're kind of connected forever. The friendship that Jen and I have, I can't even put it to words, how important it's been. She's lived in different parts of the world. And now our children have become great friends."

"I remember feeling that our families were somehow connected. It created stronger relationships than at later schools, largely because the parents were tight, too."

The Blamires sisters are another case in point. Jane

and Ruth (now Rawsthorne), her elder sister by 18 months, attended the nursery school. Both now live in St. Catharines.

An insurance adjuster by trade, Ruth also points to her friendship with Bridgman as starting when they were both 2-1/2 years old.

"I went to school with Kevin Bridgman right up to high school. And we always sat together because our names were so close alphabetically. A lot of my best friends are still from NOTL."

Both women loved their childhood lives in Old Town.

Take Jane's memory of

growing up: "It was a really great place to be a kid, riding your bike around, swimming lessons, brownies. I loved being a child. Tons of kids on our street. We had the whole road and the creek. Catching crayfish and frogs and tadpoles."

Of the nursery school, her mind carries fewer memories. "I have a sense of the paste. I can smell the minty taste of the paste that we used to use for crafts."

Fifty years of little kids taking their first social and educational steps. Hard to remember. But somehow hard to forget.

**NEXT: 50 years later, looking forward and back.**



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# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Notice of Public Information Centre

# Glendale Secondary Plan Update

### Overview

Niagara Region and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake are working together to prepare an update to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Glendale Secondary Plan.

A Secondary Plan is a land use plan for a particular area, which includes detailed policies guiding future development. The Glendale Secondary Plan, which was originally approved by Town-of-Niagara-on-the-Lake Council in 2010, applies to the area surrounded by Queenston Road, Concession 7 Road, the Niagara Escarpment and Homer Road in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The purpose of the update to the Glendale Secondary Plan will be to review and revise the existing policies for this area so that they align with the Glendale District Plan, which was endorsed by Niagara Region and Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Council in 2020. In support of this work, technical studies, including a natural heritage/subwatershed study, transportation assessment, infrastructure analysis, commercial/employment lands study, and financial impact assessment are currently being undertaken to assess and refine the concept plan for the Glendale area that was prepared through the District Plan process. The final outcome of the project will be an amendment to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Official Plan that will contain detailed policies and guidelines for future development in the area.

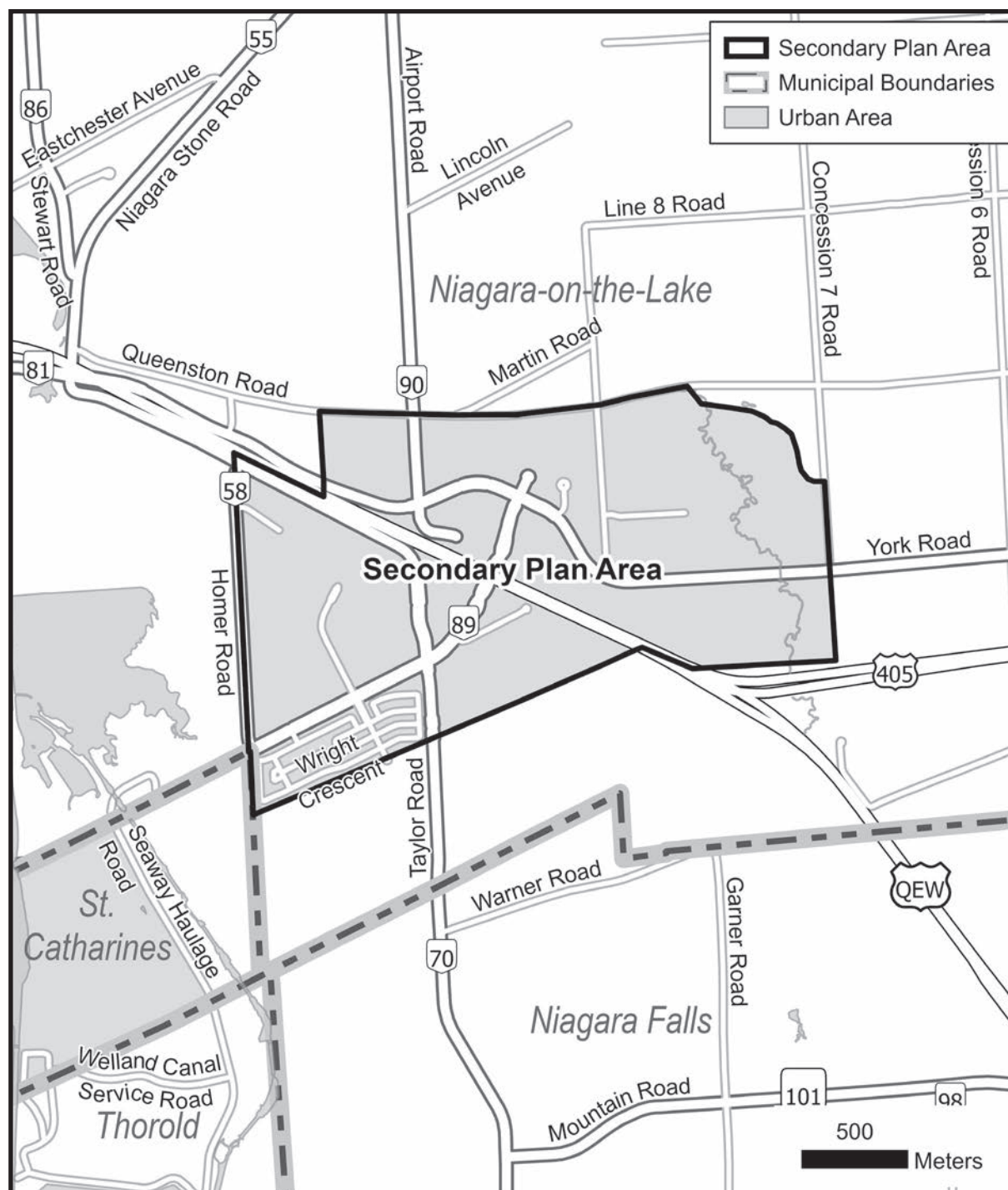
### Purpose

The purpose of the Public Information Centre will be to introduce the Glendale Secondary Plan Update and share an overview of the work completed to date, as well as what the next steps in the project will be.

The Public Information Centre will be an opportunity to ask questions of the project team, and to identify opportunities or issues that should be considered as the project moves forward.

### Public Information Centre Date and Location

Monday November 7, 2022  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Hilton Garden Inn, Garden View B  
500 York Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake



### More Information

For more information about the project, timeline and background, please visit [niagararegion.ca/projects/glendale-secondary-plan-update](https://niagararegion.ca/projects/glendale-secondary-plan-update), or contact:

Niagara Region  
**Amy Shanks**  
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*Have some fun*



**Across**

- 1. Thinly (8)
- 5. Puny person (6)
- 10. Fan (9)
- 11. Cubist's first name (5)
- 12. All ears (9)
- 13. Collection for public display (4)
- 16. Molar (7)
- 18. "The Naked Gun" star Leslie --- (7)
- 20. Tilling tool (3)
- 21. Escapée (7)
- 22. Well-being (7)
- 23. Auction (4)
- 25. Early years (9)
- 29. Poem about rural life (5)
- 30. Like stormy weather (9)
- 31. Die after seeing this town? (6)
- 32. Unexpected question (4,4)

**Down**

- 1. Band of cloth (4)
- 2. Frog (9)
- 3. Noticed a wise one, or a North American bird of prey (7,3)
- 4. It used to be spoken in Rome (5)
- 6. Elvis swivelled his (4)
- 7. It's got things to do (2-3)
- 8. Articulates (10)
- 9. Hot off the press (5-3)
- 14. Belligerence (10)
- 15. His athlete exercised in the best condition (10)
- 17. Pulsating (8)
- 19. Never-ending TV series (4,5)
- 24. Hoard (3,2)
- 26. Stretchy clothing material (5)
- 27. Balm ingredient (4)
- 28. Web page language (1,1,1,1)

### Crossword Puzzle

1		2		3		4		5	6	7		8
							9					
10									11			
	12									13		
14									15			
16					17		18				19	
					20							
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29						30						
31							32					

Last issue's answers

1	R	I	S	K	S		4	T	V	C	A	M	E	R	A	S
	E	U	I	H	L	I										
9	B	I	P	O	L	A	R		10	E	S	T	U	A	R	Y
	E	P	K	I	A											
11	C	R	O	S	S	O	V	E	R		12	E	C	O	L	I
	C	R	E	E												
13	A	L	T	E	R	E	D		14	R	A	M	P	A	R	T
	I	P														
17	D	Y	N	A	M	I	C		18	S	W	O	L	L	E	N
	E	G														
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	R	C	B	T												
25	O	U	T	W	O	R	N		26	S	T	I	M	U	L	I
	I	O	M	E												
27	T	U	R	N	B	E	R	R	Y		28	T	I	T	U	S

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



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# Entanglement, reality, quantum computers and a Nobel



**DR. BROWN**

Dr. William Brown  
Special to The Lake Report

Have you ever noticed that longtime close friends, partners and spouses sometimes seem to behave and even look as one, and sense what the other is feeling and thinking – even when they’re separated across a busy room.

It’s almost as if they were “entangled” in some fashion.

The whole notion of entanglement between subatomic particles began as a brilliant thought experiment created by Albert Einstein in 1933 to challenge the supremacy of quantum mechanics’ claim to be a complete description of reality.

In this thought experiment, two particles, say two photons of light or perhaps,

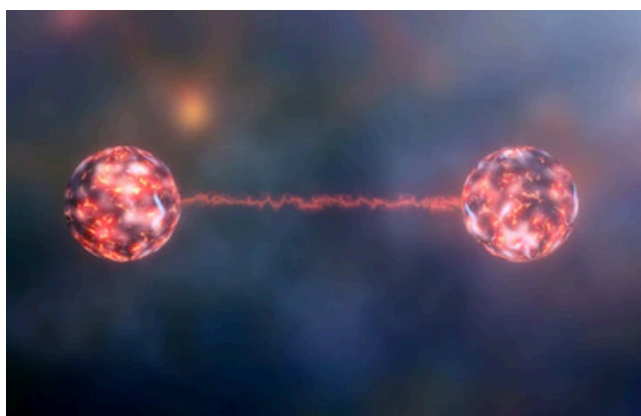
two electrons become entangled with one another, such that a change in the property of one of the two particles, instantly changes the property of the other particle.

Entanglement was a plausible enough notion in the subatomic universe where electrons, which share an orbit, pair up, one spinning in one direction and the other, in the opposite direction.

But what if entangled electrons or quanta of light were separated by much longer distances? Quantum mechanics claims that two entangled particles would remain entangled, whatever the distance between them, and do so instantly.

According to Einstein, entanglement violates quantum physics because the behaviour of one particle dictates that of the other particle, thus upsetting Heisenberg’s uncertainty principle, which applies to all particles until they are tested.

Entanglement raised other issues. Were their limits to the distance between entangled particles, beyond which



A conceptual illustration of quantum entanglement. FREEPIK

entanglement was no longer possible? And the whole notion that the change was instantaneous, conflicted with general relativity’s claim that nothing can exceed the speed of light.

Einstein’s challenge posed a huge conundrum for Bohr, Heisenberg, and the whole field of quantum mechanics because it suggested that the field was somehow incomplete, that there was something deeper at work.

However, by that time, there were more pressing interests at hand. It was already obvious that quantum mechanics worked for predicting events at the atomic and subatomic levels.

Physicists in the 1930s

were increasingly aware the power of the atom could be harnessed to create enormous energy – uncontrolled in the case of the atomic bomb and controlled in the case of nuclear plants to provide energy to power cities and industries.

Few physicists in universities, test facilities such as that at CERN (the European nuclear research institute centre, near Geneva), or industries in that era were interested in Einstein’s theoretical challenge – it was enough that quantum mechanics worked.

For the next three decades no one paid much attention to Einstein’s challenge or indeed to him after he

moved to Princeton University in 1933 to flee Germany when Hitler came to power.

Then in 1964 in an obscure journal, John Bell, a theoretical physicist proposed a theoretical framework and possible experiments to test Einstein’s challenge.

Beginning five years later, the first of a series of ever more precise experiments were carried out by this year’s laureates to test Bell’s theorem.

They showed that “particles carry no hidden message to account for their apparent co-ordinated behaviour. Instead, the apparent co-ordination arises from the action of measurement” in a manner consistent with quantum mechanics.

The result was Einstein’s claim that entanglement, as he envisioned it, no longer threatened quantum mechanics.

These days, entanglement is taken for granted and is a central property of quantum computers, which allows information to be coded in networks of entangled particles, so called qubits,

which unlike the bits of the computers we’re familiar with, can carry far more information.

And most important for some applications, quantum information is securely encrypted beyond any possibility of hacking we’re familiar with.

Just don’t expect quantum phones or laptops any time soon. So far, the computing has to be carried out at near absolute zero – so, institutional and industrial but not handheld size.

Thermodynamics predicts that eventually the universe will run out of useable energy to generate stars and keep them humming or keep life alive. Maybe not.

Some theoretical physicists now suggest that increasing entanglement between everything in the universe including life, will be our fate. Maybe, but remember even Einstein could be wrong, too.

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

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Troops Landing for Camp, Niagara-On-The-Lake, Canada.

## Troops landing in Niagara, 1915

In the lead up to Nov. 11, we are featuring photographs from our military collection. Today we have a photo of soldiers disembarking from the SS Corona, circa 1915, arriving for military training at Niagara Camp. During the navigation season (May to November), steamships were the most popular means for transporting troops to Niagara. Within two hours of boarding the boats at the Toronto wharf, the soldiers could be marching into camp. There was a great air of anticipation as the soldiers disembarked and then marched with much fanfare by their battalions' brass and bugle bands through town to their designated campsites.

Huge crowds of family, friends, fellow soldiers and townfolk turned out as the men would later embark for transport across the lake on their way to the front. In Toronto, they would either be assigned to other camps or connect to trains for Montreal or Halifax. Many would never return.

## Special visit has St. Davids kids (and teachers) dancing



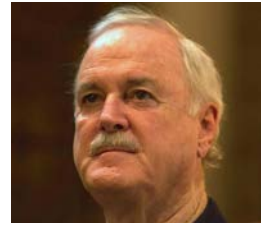
**PHOTO GALLERY**  
See more pictures at [niagaranow.com](http://niagaranow.com)

Yukon bhangra dancer Gurdeep Pandher recently stopped to visit St. Davids Public School as part of his "Joy, Hope and Positivity Tour." He performed a special dance show for an auditorium of students, and even had the teachers on stage dancing. PRIYA LITT PHOTO

## Looking to the Stars

### Meaningful discussions and connections may lie ahead

**Thursday, Oct. 27:** As the moon moves from secretive Scorpio into far-reaching Sagittarius this morning, it kicks off a day where optimistic thinking opens doors to an often dreamed about future. Other connections give energy in practical ways. One of comedy's funniest performers, who starred in "Monty Python" and "Fawlty Towers," John Cleese, turns 83 today.



**Friday, Oct. 28:** Jupiter retrograde re-enters Pisces. Jupiter was in Pisces May to July 2021, and then again from January until May 2022. Jupiter only spends three to four months at a time in Pisces, so he hasn't really had the chance to bring his projects to completion. Third time lucky? Jupiter will be in Pisces until Dec. 21. This is our last chance to finish what we have started in the Pisces-ruled sector of our life. Happy birthday #55 to Julia Roberts, whose next film co-stars George Clooney. She is also co-producer.



**Saturday, Oct. 29:** Today, Mercury enters Scorpio where it seeks meaningful discussions and meaningful connections. This is not a time for chit-chat or superficial communication. Mercury in Scorpio is a great transit to have honest conversations (with ourselves and others), do therapy and get to the bottom of our thinking patterns. It was the 29th of October, 1929, that the New York Stock Exchange famously crashed. It was a Tuesday, the first day of the Great Depression.

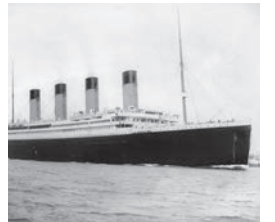
**Sunday, Oct. 30:** Today, Mars goes retrograde in Gemini. The Mars retrograde

(Oct. 30 to Jan. 12) is one of the most important transits. You know that saying, "fasten your seatbelt," which means prepare for an intense, bumpy ride? When Mars goes retrograde in Gemini, we really want to fasten that seatbelt. It was 84 years ago today that Orson Welles' "The War of the Worlds" radio play aired in America and convinced millions that space aliens had taken over the world.

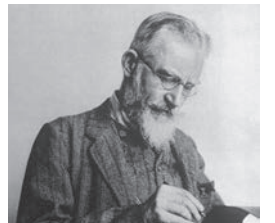


**Monday, Oct. 31:** This is a good day to think before you speak. Otherwise, you may be misunderstood. Regarded by many as one of the greatest Old Masters, Jan Vermeer was born Oct. 31, 1632, in the Dutch city of Delft.

**Tuesday, Nov. 1:** Today, the moon and Saturn are together in Aquarius. This usually carries a warning to not begin anything new. To which I add "unless it's pursued sure-footedly and with great care." It was Nov. 1, 1997, that James Cameron's "Titanic" premiered in Tokyo. It went on to win the Best Picture Oscar in 1998.



**Wednesday, Nov. 2:** Two very different aspects to Venus make for a time when intimate matters change. On Nov. 2, 1950, George Bernard Shaw fell while pruning a tree and died.



Check out my new website at [www.lutts.com](http://www.lutts.com).

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# All Along the Waterfront

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All Along the Waterfront

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## Lasagna gardening is an easy, no-dig alternative



Joanne Young  
Gardening Columnist

Are you thinking of preparing new gardens next spring? Or do you have an existing vegetable garden that could use some soil improvement?

Why not try some lasagna gardening.

This is a no-dig, no-till organic gardening method that results in rich, fluffy soil with little work by the gardener.

Lasagna gardening is involves adding layers of organic materials that will “cook down” over time, resulting in nutrient-rich soil that will help your plants thrive. You are also letting the earthworms do all the work.

Also known as “sheet composting,” lasagna gardening is great for the environment because you’re using your yard and kitchen waste and essentially composting it in place to make a new garden.

One of the best things is how easy it is. You don’t have to remove existing sod and weeds. In fact, you don’t have to work the soil at all.

This saves a lot of work, and it also means you are not digging up and getting rid of the soil directly under the sod (which is usually the richest soil you have).

The first layer of your lasagna garden consists of either brown corrugated cardboard or three layers of newspaper laid directly on top of the grass or weeds in the area you’ve selected for your garden.

Wet this layer to keep everything in place and to start the decomposition process. Once you have the cardboard or paper layer down, then you begin to layer material on top, alternating between brown and green.



Lasagna gardening getting started. JOANNE YOUNG

So, what do you build your lasagna garden with? Anything you’d put in a compost pile, you can put into a lasagna garden.

The materials will break down, providing nutrient-rich, crumbly soil in which to plant.

The following are green materials that can be used: grass clippings, fruit and vegetable scraps, seaweed, spent blooms, and trimmings from the garden like perennials that are being cut back for the season.

For brown material, you can use fallen leaves from trees, coffee grounds, tea leaves, composted manure, compost, pine needles, peat moss and straw.

There is some importance to the methods you use to build your lasagna garden. In general, you want your “brown” layers to be about twice as deep as your “green” layers, but there’s no need to get finicky about this.

Just layer browns and greens, and a lasagna garden will result.

Ideally, what you want at the end of your layering process is a two-foot tall, layered bed. You’ll be amazed at how much this will shrink in a few short weeks.

You can make a lasagna garden at any time of year. Fall is an optimum time, though, because of the amount of organic materials you can get for free thanks to fallen leaves and general yard waste from cleaning up the rest of the yard and garden.

You can let the lasagna garden sit and break down all winter. By spring, it will be ready to plant in with a minimum of effort. Also, fall rains and winter snow will keep the materials moist, which helps them break down faster.

If you make the bed in spring, layer as many greens and browns as you can, with layers of finished compost, peat or topsoil interspersed in them.

Finish off the entire bed with three or four inches of finished compost or topsoil,

and plant. The bed will settle some over the season as the layers underneath decompose.

Caring for a lasagna garden also is less laborious. You can expect fewer weeds, better water retention, less need for fertilizer – and soil that is easy to work.

Now your only problem will be finding plants to fill all those new gardens.

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



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## Obituary

### Michael Kalm

KALM, Michael (Mihkel)

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the sudden passing of Michael (Mihkel) Kalm, of Niagara-on-the-Lake on Sunday, October 16. Michael was born on June 8th, 1941, in Tallinn, Estonia, to Georg and Maimo Kalm during the Russian occupation. In 1943 his parents fled Estonia with Michael and his older sister Merike. Travelling via Finland and Sweden they arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax, Nova Scotia on May 22, 1950. After leaving Port Credit high school he served in the Canadian Navy for 5 years. This is where he fostered his love for sailing and the freedom of the open seas. A famous and often quoted 19th century naval order was, “Damn the torpedoes, full steam (speed) ahead”. This is how Michael lived his life. He always persevered, and lived life to its fullest and let nothing stand in his way. He and his wife, partner, friend and sailing companion, Sheila spent countless happy years sailing their yacht on lakes and oceans. At one point they even chose to live aboard their yacht shunning the traditional brick and mortar home for the unconventional and challenging life of living on board which brought them adventure and happiness. In 1987 Michael started his own water treatment company called Glengarry Chemicals. Through perseverance, hard work and an uncanny business sense he grew it into a sizeable and successful business. He was in his 80s before he retired. Michael and Sheila lived life to the absolute fullest based from their beautiful home and gardens in Niagara-on-the-Lake. They loved good food and travel and ventured from the sands of the desert to tropical ocean paradises. Michael was a first-class chef and often went out to gather fine ingredients for his wonderful home cooked meals, sometimes on a daily basis. He also loved fine dining and ate at many restaurants both five star and just plain down-home cooking. In short, Michael was a larger-than-life character whose presence could not be ignored. His passing has left a hole in all of our lives and he will be sorely missed by all that knew him. He may not be present in the physical sense but he will live on in our memories. He is dearly missed by his longtime partner and wife Sheila and his step-children Keith (Dora) Hirsch, Mark (Irene) Hirsch and his step-grandchildren Joshua and Megan. His big sister Merike Kalm and his nieces and nephews Jeffrey (Dadanae) Himel, Susan (Tim) Himel, David (Nancy) Himel, Leigh (Peter) Himel and his grand-nieces and nephews Dionysos, Anastasia, Jazmyn, Elijah and Samuel. There will be a funeral service on Saturday, October 29 at 2:30 p.m. at the Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent St., Niagara-on-the-Lake, followed by a get together at Michael and Sheila’s home. Sheila is requesting that instead of wearing all black attire that you dress in some happy colours. This coming spring there will be a true celebration of Michael’s love for good food and wine in the garden at their home in Niagara-on-the-Lake. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his name for his well-loved feline friends OG and Jack to the Lincoln Humane Society. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at [www.morganfuneral.com](http://www.morganfuneral.com)



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**Stefan Regier**  
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