



Skatepark a big draw

Story on Page 13

Fourteen-year-old Matt Li of Niagara-on-the-Lake attempts a triple 360 on a scooter at the new Virgil skatepark on Tuesday. RICHARD HARLEY

St. Davids pool funding denied

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Arrest made after outlet mall mayhem

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Happy Rolph's gets a new name

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117 kilos of cocaine seized in Queenston

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Dr. Joseph Pohorly was a passionate winemaker, builder and innovator

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

There aren't many local pies that Dr. Joseph Pohorly didn't have his fingers in.

Pohorly, who died peacefully this past week at age 88, was a teacher, professional engineer, grape and tenderfruit grower, entrepreneur, hotelier, winemaker and product innovator, during his long and well-recognized career.

The Lake Report contacted his younger-brother-by-14-years, Frank Pohorly, who along with his wife Susan, and their son Stephen, farm a total of 53 acres of tenderfruit and grapes in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Frank was out on the farm, leaving Susan to pass his remembrances of Joe on: "Frank most remembers how much talent Joe had,



Dr. Joseph Pohorly. SUPPLIED

particularly in anything artistic," said Susan. "He loved drawing and photography."

The two siblings were so far apart in age, they never really connected in business. "Joe was into wine. We were into farming."

However, they did connect over a truck they purchased for use by both

their businesses. "One side said Frank and Joe Pohorly and the other side was Joe and Frank Pohorly," Susan's voice smiles as she remembers.

Although Pohorly is perhaps best known for Joseph's Estates Wines, which he founded in Virgil in 1996, the industry celebrates him for opening one of Ontario's first cottage

wineries, Newark Wines, in 1979 and later creating Canada's first commercial ice wine in 1983.

Pohorly's business story continued.

In 1983, Newark Wines became Hillebrand Wines, with new investors. In 1986, Pohorly sold his Hillebrand interest to design, build and operate the Colonel Butler Inn. After 10 years in the hotel business, he sold the hotel to return to his first love, winemaking, opening Joseph's Estate Wines in 1996.

If that's not enough, in 2002, at age 70, Pohorly earned his PhD in environmental engineering from Columbus University for his research and development of processes to extract grape seed oil from the grape seeds and skins that are generated during the

winemaking process.

Armed with this knowledge, Pohorly started Joseph's Natural Products, a company to make and sell this innovative health product.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Coun. Erwin Wiens, a fellow grape grower, knew Pohorly for many years.

"I sold in him grapes when he owned Joseph's," said Wiens. "He was so easy to work with. And he did the engineering for my dad's barn back in the early '90s."

"He was a real pioneer in the industry."

Pohorly sold the winery in 2014 but continued to act as a winery and engineering consultant, and president of the grape seed oil company.

He served on the Niagara Credit Union (now Meridian Credit Union) for 27 years and received

numerous community and industry awards, including most recently the 2018 Niagara Agricultural Lifetime Achievement Award.

He was predeceased by his wife of 50 years, Betty, in 2009. He is survived by two brothers, three daughters and two grandchildren.

Just a day after his uncle Joe died, Michael Pohorly posted a heartfelt tribute to his "road trip partner" on Facebook, from his home in Vancouver.

"He was an inspiration to me as a shining example of pursuing a life where all kinds of endeavours and interests are possible and a reminder that no matter what our age our lives can be lived fully and we can enjoy every moment and never stop learning and challenging ourselves."

A life well lived.



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Other company has a **different view** on protests

Jeff Sentineal is OK with actions of animal rights activists, but many, including his brother Fred see them as aggressive harassers

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

When it comes to the on-going protests in Niagara-on-the-Lake, one carriage company operator has a “different view than most people.”

Jeff Sentineal, owner of Queen’s Royal Carriage, says he has no problem with the carriage protesters, despite them directly targeting his business.

“I stand up for the rights of democracy for protesting,” he said in an interview. “But it has to be done in a civil manner.”

On the other side, his brother Fred Sentineal, who operates Sentineal Carriages in the same space with his wife Laura, views the protests as harassment and has been vocal about trying to protect the business and its employees from protesters, who have frequently approached workers, calling them animal abusers and slave owners.

“But you’re seeing two families — myself and then obviously my brother and his wife — we have totally different views on the right approach to all of this,” Jeff said.

“I’m not happy with what I see,” he added. “I see my brother and people putting their own protest parties against another protest party, which is in competing interest with one another.”

He said the carriage protesters are peaceful, so he doesn’t have a problem with them being there.

“I’m OK with it. And that’s really hard to understand when I run a carriage industry business.”

However, Fred and Laura don’t think the protesters have been peaceful and they have expressed concerns on many occasions about the safety of their horses and drivers.

Jeff said he supports people’s democratic right to protest, adding he works with international students who, in their home countries, would get “locked up in jail” for protesting.

“So I stand for them to have the right and the free-



Jeff Sentineal, owner of Queen’s Royal Carriage. RICHARD HARLEY

doms to (protest).”

Jeff also disagrees with his family attending out-of-town protests at Fearman’s Pork Inc. in Burlington. After that, the protesters held a large demonstration in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Aug. 23.

“Going to Burlington and being part of a protest for eating meat or whatever for animals. And again, being in their world, where a woman got killed is sad. I don’t think they did the right thing. And I won’t stand by it.”

He agrees with the town moving the carriages to Byron Street from outside the Prince of Wales hotel on weekends to try to subdue the protests, saying he thinks it’s better for the businesses in Old Town.

“Our town, our community is suffering because of COVID-19, and I see businesses struggling. And you’ve got to make sacrifices and the Prince of Wales was suffering. So if we’re not there and it gives them an essence of some peace and a little bit of happy in their world and that business sector, I’m all for it.”

He said he’s moved some of his carriages to the Royal George Theatre on Queen Street while buses aren’t using the space.

“I just relocated mine so I’m not in conflict with these people. I want them

to be able to do what they feel they need to do,” he said of the protesters.

But if protesters were to follow his carriages, it would be another story.

“Let’s say the left here and they were following and whatever they want to do, then that’s now taken to another level.”

He said he thinks the protesters have a hard time differentiating his carriages from others.

“They don’t even know. I don’t get into that with them. I just relocated because at the end of the day, they really don’t know — they can’t tell the difference ... a carriage looks like a carriage.”

He said he has two carriage licences, while Fred and Laura Sentineal have three.

The carriage licences are controlled and regulated by the town, he added, noting they could be shut down if the town wanted to.

“So when it comes to municipal permission, they can come along and say, ‘You know, we’re not going to have it this year.’”

He said the protests have been disruptive to his business, but only when both sides are engaging each other.

“Does it impede business? Yeah, it does. But when I’m not choosing to engage in it, really it’s not impeding my business.

Now if it became a problem where they were following me, then I take (the carriages) right off the street.”

He said if his business is affected, “that’s the price you’ll have to pay for allowing freedom of speech.”

While he doesn’t agree with the message of the protesters, he said he’s willing to “agree to disagree.”

“I may not agree with their cause. But I certainly agree with the right to protest,” he said.

He said he thinks the next big issue for NOTL will be Black Lives Matter.

“The next protests you’ll probably see out of this town will be for Black Lives Matter” because the town has a lord mayor. “That lordship title represents racism.”

“Colonialism is on its way out. And I’m not a colonial. I’m not a loyalist, I’m a patriot. I’m loyal to you because you were born in Canada. To really sum it up for you, on this \$20 bill, as much as I respect the Queen of England, I want Terry Fox on it.”

He said he’s not in favour of any carriage support groups either and thinks they’re just adding fuel to the fire.

Jeff said he’s been involved in town talks about how to manage the situation and feels it should be left to the carriage operators.

“I’m buddy-buddy to the right to protest, even if it’s against my business. That’s the way it is in my life. That’s what we call neutrality.”

He said he’s tried to be supportive of a protocol of behaviour between the carriage companies and protesters, but it hasn’t worked out.

He not sure if there ever will be a solution to the ongoing issue, “because they’ve been trying to work on solutions like this in Ottawa forever. At the end of day you’re not going to stop protesting.”

He said he thinks protest founder Adam Stirr has been fair with him and police.

“Adam has been absolutely honorable in my opinion, backed up by the police that I’ve worked with, when it comes to how he conducts this protest and the security of people in this situation.”

As for the activists’ suggestion to switch to electronic carriages, he said he’s not against it.

“Not at all,” he said, adding it’s something he’s been considering.

Stirr and his cohort have said they would help fundraise for the electric carriages if the companies decided to switch and Jeff said he’s open to the idea.

“If they want to help fund it and we’ll launch the first one, and I think it’ll come. And if it’s well-received by the community and the town, then why not? I love horses, my mom loved horses. But we’re living in a time that’s changing. I will adapt to the better times.”

He likens the switch to society adapting to cleaner vehicles.

Meantime, he doesn’t want to engage negatively with protesters, the town or pro-carriage groups.

“Hate breeds hate. I’m not engaging in that. I love my community and the world I live in too much. There’s bigger problems out there,” he said.

“What do you think: am I crazy or is the rest of the world crazy?”

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Wayne Gates MPP Niagara Falls representing Niagara-on-the-Lake & Fort Erie
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9/11 remembered in NOTL

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

One was asleep, one was at Home Depot, another was anxiously trying to find colleagues who were headed to the World Trade Center in New York.

At a wreath-laying ceremony in NOTL on Sept. 11, New Democrat MPP Wayne Gates, Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Chamber of Commerce president Eduardo Lafforgue all recalled where they were when they first heard the news about the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Lafforgue, who was working for Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec in Montreal at the time, said that day the company was having an exhibition at the World Trade Center, where the firm also had offices.

"I was having my usual espresso in the lobby when I heard," he told The Lake Report after a solemn ceremony at the NOTL cenotaph.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the ceremony was low-key, with Niagara EMS superintendent Terry Flynn, Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa and a few members of the public the only others in attendance.

But the events of that Tuesday in 2001 are etched in Lafforgue's memory.

"I rushed upstairs and put the television on. And first I tried to find where our people were, because we had people actually already in New York, and I knew that they would be at the World Trade Center,"

Lafforgue said.

"And we were very, very lucky because they were on their way to the lobby of the World Trade Center where this happened so they could actually run out and we didn't lose anybody."

"And then we were in shock in front of the television," he said.

At midday on 9/11, he was out for a sandwich with the president of the company. "We were sitting on the terrace and, suddenly, an airplane flew over. And we all, on the terrace, we just threw ourselves under the table. It was like an instinct," he said, adding there was a strong feeling of "uncertainty" and "how can this happen here?"

After Sept. 11, his office was evacuated a number of times.

"We were evacuated many times because anything looks suspicious after that. It changed the world. It changed the way we travel. It changed many things."

Disero was a Toronto city councillor on 9/11.

"When I heard the news I was at a Home Depot store, launching a new program for the City of Toronto, for batteries and green bins," Disero recalled.

"I remember driving back with somebody and just the silence in the car driving back to my office was awesome. It was truly an emotional time when we were driving back. Everybody in the car was silent. And then I went into my office and watched it, couldn't take my eyes off the TV for the rest



MPP Wayne Gates, NOTL Chamber of Commerce president Eduardo Lafforgue, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa and Niagara EMS superintendent Terry Flynn. RICHARD HARLEY

of the day."

Gates wasn't a politician yet and was working "steady midnights" at General Motors.

"I was in bed sleeping and my phone was ringing and ringing and ringing," he said.

"It was my daughter Ch-

antel, who was stuck over in Buffalo, N.Y., because she was taking teacher's college over there at that time, and she told me what happened."

And like the mayor, he "went right to the TV and couldn't take my eyes off it."

Councillors not ready to resume in-person meetings

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors aren't ready to head back to the council chambers just yet.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero addressed the issue Monday night during a virtual committee of the whole meeting, saying there's been a "push" for councillors to get back to in-person meetings.

She presented a number of options, having looked at

what some other municipalities are doing. Alternatives include having councillors wear masks and having them spread out more by using audience seats and moving to the podium to speak.

However, there was no appetite for that just yet, even from Coun. Gary Burroughs, who has been vocal about wanting to get back in the chamber as early as possible.

Coun. Allan Bisback said with a second wave of CO-

VID-19 looming as cases rise across the country, he would like to hold off.

"I think the technology is working for us. My personal view would be to wait for at least another month," he told fellow councillors.

"I agree with councillor Bisback and I've been a proponent of getting back as fast as we can but the options that I heard tonight aren't really the options that I was looking at so I'm quite pleased that we're not opening in September,"

Burroughs said.

Coun. Clare Cameron also echoed Bisback's statements.

"I'm in no rush," she said, noting she thinks virtual meetings have been working well.

"I think everybody is in a sort of wait-and-see mode and I'm also in no rush to ask staff to come back to chambers or to expect staff to come back to town hall, so I'm happy to stay where we're at, at least for the next few months."



TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE CONCESSION 6 ROAD (Niagara Stone Road to Line 2 Road)

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake will be completing a Road Reconstruction Project on Concession 6 Road from Niagara Stone Road to Line 2 Road. The road closure is scheduled for Monday, September 21, 2020 until approximately October 30, 2020.

The section of road will be closed to all through traffic during the duration of the installation. Local residents will have access to their driveways during the closure. There may be times when access is granted at the discretion of the contractor.

A detour route will be provided around the site for traffic. This closure is necessary to allow for the road reconstruction, storm sewer and watermain installation. Emergency services will have access to the road during this closure.

Any inquiries concerning this project may be directed to Rob Andrea, Engineering Technologist for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

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Contributed by Patty Garriock
 "Life is not measured in the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away." - Patty Garriock



Contributed by Norm Arsenault:
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Editorial: Listen to NOTL residents

Richard Harley
 Editor-In-Chief

Like many other residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake, we were disappointed to hear the town had cut down a slew of healthy trees along the Upper Canada Heritage Trail, all to get one dead tree out.

It seems a waste and we're left questioning why another option wasn't explored.

But beyond that, it seems there was some oversight with regards to town staff's decision to move forward with the culling without first consulting the town's own committee that's been assigned to restore and (hopefully) improve the trail, which is used daily by

area residents.

The town should have at least consulted with the committee to make sure any plans to alter the trail lined up with plans for its development.

After all, residents and businesses have been donating to this cause, and to the committee's efforts.

We're glad to hear the cutting has been put on hold for now and consultation will be done in the future with people who are trying to better the trail.

We're also glad to hear the mess that was left along the trail is going to be cleaned up. Because it looked bad, like a destruction zone.

But through our investigation of the incident, we

also became aware that many residents along the trail don't want to see it developed at all. They'd prefer to let it continue to be a natural walking trail, rather than a gravel path that could potentially become a hot bed for tourists on bikes.

That's understandable. And we hope those concerns are taken into account when the trail committee is making its decisions.

We would not like to see over-zealous action by the committee, that residents don't actually want or need.

That would be ironic, considering the name is the Upper Canada Heritage Trail, and the goal is to preserve history, not rein-

vent the trail.

Looking to some other walking paths in NOTL, particularly in the Glendale area at Niagara College, we see it's possible to maintain a grassy trail, with overhanging foliage.

Why not involve members of Niagara College's horticulture program to oversee and maintain the trail?

It would be cost-effective, would offer a new space for students to hone their skills and would lend itself to what residents living near the trail want to see.

And please, don't cut down any more trees. It's clear NOTL residents want them to remain.

editor@niagaranow.com



We're quite happy with changes made to the heritage trail

Dear editor:

We read this week's issue The Lake Report (and other publications) articles and letters concerning the preparations for the Charlotte to East and West Line section of the Upper Canada Heritage Trail.

We have not walked on that section of the trail for a few weeks, but the last time we did so, it was badly rutted, with puddles and uneven terrain. There were many sick-looking trees adjacent to the trail and almost all needed pruning.

Our home backs on to the John to Charlotte street section of the trail, which of course was renovated by the town several weeks ago. Previously, the trail was quite rutted, with uneven ground and puddles and mud after rainfall.

Bordering the trail were tangles of wild raspberry

and grapevine, dead shrubs, dead and dying trees. The trail was used by some, but the change since its renovation is amazing! It is now a pleasant, flat walking surface (no ruts or puddles) that is being used by many, many more residents and visitors.

Pedestrian traffic has significantly increased, lots of cyclists are now using the trail, presumably all the way to East and West Line. We have people using walkers and wheelchairs enjoying the trail, which would have been impossible previously.

We see the usual wildlife - racoons, opossums, skunks and even some deer. Occasionally we see riders on horseback.

We have had no issues relating to privacy and have had no concerns that the increased use of the trail has been in any way

intrusive or negative. Quite recently we learned the town will be planting new trees, shrubs and evergreens along the John-Charlotte section. It is likely that they will do similar planting and enhancements to the Charlotte-East and West section once renovation is near completion.

Extending the trail in a similar manner from Charlotte to East and West Line will be a very positive development for this community.

We have read the letters raging against the removal of healthy trees in an effort to get at a dead tree that poses a danger of falling on a private home bordering the trail. I am sure the homeowner will be quite happy to see the threatening tree removed. It is unfortunate that otherwise healthy trees must be sacrificed in

the process, but it must be done.

In order to renovate this section of the trail and make it as inviting and inclusive as the John-Charlotte section, it will be necessary to sacrifice some trees, scrub and bushes in order to widen the trail surface.

Undoubtedly this section of the trail will be less wide than the John-Charlotte section as the right-of-way appears to be less wide.

Nonetheless, the changes, if similar to those already done on the other section, will be very positive.

It will mean increased traffic, which may not be desired by homeowners bordering the trail, but it will provide a very nice attraction for all town residents and visitors who might find there way there.

Ron and Jan Ashenhurst
 NOTL

Correction: Wrong courthouse

Last week we used a photo of the courthouse on Queen Street to accompany with a story about Solomon Moseby. The caption said it was the courthouse

he was kept in, however it was the old courthouse on Rye Street where the town made its historic stand to free Moseby.

We regret the error.





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OPINION

In praise of older men and women: Attributes to cope better in a pandemic

Bill Garriock
Special to The Lake Report

It's still scary out there with the looming second wave of "The Pandemic," but at least by the time we have retired we have developed some good sense based on our life experiences to deal with the uncertainties that go with such an event.

We are wiser than those who are much younger and naive and those who feel the need to party and hang around bars and beaches (many of the new COVID-19 cases are with people 20 to 29 years old). Why those locations haven't been fully shut down to slow down the spread of the virus is a mystery.

We continue to be curious and have time to think about these things, particularly when actions by others who don't think could put us at risk.

Being older has some distinct advantages. We have "experience" – and lots of it. Research has shown that we are better at coping with stress and uncertainty and have learned that we can only deal with things and issues within our control.

In fact, according to researcher Arthur A. Stone et al. in the science journal "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences," our stress, worry and anger levels are significantly less than for younger people, even though there can be



PIXABAY PHOTO

considerable variations for individuals.

Research also shows that as people get older, they enjoy a more positive emotional experience, due in part to a focus on social relationships, according to Laura Carstensen et al. at Stanford University.

From another study, in 2009 Carstensen and another researcher reported that, "Individuals experience more life satisfaction as age increases because, with passing time and shrinking time horizons, they spend more time in activities that contribute to their well-being instead of pursuing goals that are expected to pay off in the future ... that is, they focus on things that contribute to their current happiness."

Additionally, older people tend to focus on fewer but more rewarding social contacts, which allow them to better control their emotional health (Berg et al 2006).

Isn't it nice to know that there are academics at universities trying to figure us out? Many of us know most of that already but it is good to know we are working hard to make the best of our lives, particularly during a pandemic. Because of the changes to our routines, we have become more aware of what we like and like to do, and what relationships we really enjoy.

The Pandemic, with its home isolations and restricted social contacts, has given us an opportunity to think more about what is and is not important for our well-being. Yes, we miss our regular check-ups with our doctors, but we are trying to keep our bodies moving through our walks and other outside activities.

And we miss close contact with family and friends; hugs have gone but we understand the importance of keeping in touch, of reaching out to others through calls, online or Zoom.

Some of us are having small get-togethers, properly social distanced, of course, on our patios. And when we are out for our walks, we are amazed that so many others we know are doing the same.

We take time for a chat and to ask, "How are you doing?" and most reply, "Very well." But when they don't, we take the time to listen to the concern.

We do the same when, through our masks, we ask the same question to those who are providing essential services at stores, banks and other service outlets. And we are grateful for their commitment. We are probably caring much more than we were when we all seemed to be so busy.

We are far from being through the risks that come from The Pandemic and we need to continue to be vigilant, especially now.

As older folk, we are doing our part. Here's hoping the scientists will be successful in doing their part to develop a vaccine that will be available sooner than later.

In the meantime, we need to be safe and careful, enjoy what we have, keep in regular contact with our dearest friends and our families, and above all, praise ourselves for how well we are coping during The Pandemic!

Bill Garriock is among the older folks who live in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Heritage trail has become a roadway, not a walking path

Dear editor:

Along with other residents, particularly those like myself whose property backs on to the old railway and the Upper Canada Heritage Trail, I have followed the recent discussion among readers and my neighbours with great interest, "Residents angry after healthy trees cut down along heritage trail," The Lake Report, Sept. 10.

Whilst the objectives of the heritage committee are noble, the outcome in respect of the "trail" running between King and Paffard streets is to say the least disappointing; where



The heritage trail. FILE

there was a trail in the true sense (a rough path in a wooded area), we now sadly have a road together with ebikes riding three abreast, increased numbers of cyclists, tourists and accompanying noise for residents enjoying the comfort of their patios.

We also have increased

exposure from a security angle, with easier access for those wishing to break in to the properties backing onto the "trail."

Forgive me for using the term "trail" as according to the heritage committee it is actually a walkway and subject to width requirements per section 3.13 of

the municipal engineering standards.

According to the same standard, the walkway should also have a fence each side? Please say no to that. Many residents are not happy, not least because we weren't consulted prior to the carnage being done.

To those residents about to be the subject of phase two of the "trail's" development, I hope your concerns are heard and the road, sorry walkway, is not further extended, eroding your peaceful relationship with nature.

*Peter Warrack
NOTL*

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Wellness committee welcomes on-demand transit

Dear editor:
NOTL's Community Wellness Committee wholeheartedly supports the implementation of the on-demand transit pilot program in Niagara-on-the-Lake, as announced by the town on Sept. 3.

This new system will provide a necessary service to many NOTL residents, allowing greater flexibility in transportation and mobility options by letting residents select from pre-defined pick-up and destination locations throughout the town.

The development of this program was one of the Community Wellness Committee's recommendations included in a report

approved by council in January 2020.

The committee understands that, given the partnership with the Niagara Region and important implementation, operational and financial considerations, this service will not begin operating until November 2020, pending regional council's amendment of its contract with the service provider, and that initially, it will only serve the residents of Old Town, Virgil and the Glendale corridor.

We eagerly anticipate the expansion of this service to St. Davids, Queenston and the rural areas and to inter-municipal transit options as early as possible in 2021.

As with any other municipally provided program or service that is used by the public, it is important for as many residents as possible to utilize it in order for it to be sustainable over the long term. As the old saying goes, "Use it or lose it."

For the new on-demand transit program to remain in town and be a valuable service, it is particularly important for as many residents as possible to take advantage of it as soon as it is implemented.

It is also important for residents to know that there are alternative transportation solutions for residents, such as Niagara Specialized Transit for eligible residents

who may have a disability (niagararegion.ca/transit/nst/default.aspx), Community Transport Group (https://ct-gcanada.ca), individual taxi and Uber services.

The Community Wellness Committee supports town council and staff in their implementation of as many of our recommendations as possible, as outlined in our report of recommendations, approved by town council in January 2020. For more information about our report, please visit notl.org/content/council-business.

Thank you.

Cindy Grant
Chair
Community Wellness Committee



Stop protesters from harassing people

Dear editor:
Why can't NOTL use harassment laws to regulate the anti-carriage protesters?

Surely the use of bullhorns, blocking access on sidewalks and roads is harassment.

The role of the protesters seems to have changed

from protesting man's use of animals to trying to drive the carriage ride companies out of business.

This group should not be allowed to harass anyone (especially tourists) on the streets and/or sidewalks of NOTL.

Julie Bonnell
NOTL

Interactions with town staff prompt thoughts of amalgamation

Dear editor:
As a former police officer, I know that at one time there were more than 350 police departments in Ontario. Now there are less than 50.

Most of those 350 departments were small, ineffective, poorly trained and rife with nepotism, corruption, favouritism and unprofessionalism.

They were governed by part-time politicians (known as police committees), who had no training in administration, law enforcement or otherwise and usually did what the police chief directed them to do, out of intimidation and ignorance.

After several scandals, miscarriages of justice, accounting discrepancies and public inquiries into these and other ongoing problems, the province's solution was to amalgamate these small forces into larger departments, thus creating a more professional and accountable police service that was governed by police commissions comprised of full-time

politicians, judges, lawyers and qualified citizens.

No police officer lost their job involuntarily, but a number thought it best to leave the new larger, professional forces of their own accord. Nor did anyone take a drop in pay, but many higher-ranking officers were demoted to a level that more matched their ability.

To break up the good ol' boy networks, mass transfers were initiated, so it was not a case of simply putting on a different uniform and going to work as usual. It was a whole new ballgame!

With the larger entities and thus, a larger pool of talent, came some exceptionally talented administrators who implemented clear procedures, strict promotional standards, comprehensive training systems, accountability, complaint procedures and cost-effectiveness.

Why this history lesson of policing in Ontario and why is this the first time I have ever written to a newspaper? Because of a recent interaction with Town of Niagara-

on-the-Lake staff and an unanswered letter to every town councillor (except one who did reply), I have reluctantly concluded small town administrations, and in particular Niagara-on-the-Lake's, should go the way of the small police departments. And for a lot of the very same reasons.

Over the previous 10 years we have had to deal with town staff on four or five different occasions and were dumbstruck at their level of incompetence, inefficiency and unaccountability.

It is not this present town council's fault alone. Previous councils have all known of the problems, but kept kicking the can down the road.

We are all aware that doing the same thing repeatedly and expecting a different result is the definition of insanity, so hiring a new CAO is not the answer. We have had a few in the last while and for one reason or another, they all seem to do the NOTL Town Shuffle out the door, with a few holding

on to Cash for Life winning tickets.

Who do you complain to when town staff, after being notified of a potentially life-threatening situation on town property, does nothing to rectify it for over three years?

Or, undermines town council's authority and fabricates their own definitions for town bylaws, putting the onus on the citizen to lay their own charge?

Or, as we conservatively estimated, wastes over \$100,000 cutting down trees that were the property owners' responsibility, not the taxpayers'?

Or attempting to illegally enter residential buildings by way of threats and intimidation?

Further, how can anyone have any confidence in a staff that proposes a \$150,000 pool bylaw enforcement unit when every other municipality in the civilized world has been using Google Earth (for free) to locate pools and hot tubs for the previous 18 years?

Sadly, as my wife and I found out, complaining to town staff is an effort in futility. They circle the wagons, become insulted and lash out at any suggestion of wrongdoing and impropriety (same thing happened with the small police departments, except you usually found yourself behind the pipes on a trumped-up charge). Town council is not in control and in all likelihood is afraid of and intimidated by town staff.

When the newly elected conservative government initially sent up a trial balloon for the amalgamation of municipalities within the Niagara Region, I was opposed to it. But we have seen our taxes going up, services becoming more dysfunctional and dwindling, we are picking expensive fights with developers, bylaws are so poorly written, they are virtually unenforceable, and town staff is blowing through money and appears to be accountable to no one.

Amateur hour has to end

before our real estate values begin to take a hit!

It is my opinion that the citizens of Niagara-on-the-Lake must be proactive and form a committee to explore the best scenario for our town before the provincial government legislates a marriage that renders NOTL powerless.

The most popular and I think the most workable idea is to have Niagara-on-the-Lake amalgamate with Fort Erie and Niagara Falls for a whole host of reasons, with the most important one being a balance of power between the two smaller municipalities being equal to the larger municipality. I do not know all the complexities involved, so there may be better ideas.

The number of dedicated, talented and conscientious town employees are by far in the majority and will no doubt succeed beyond expectations if given a larger, more professionally managed and structured environment to work in.

Colin Telfer
NOTL

Scam callers just keep on dialling my number, so I sent a letter to my phone company

The author sent this letter to his telephone provider, Freedom Mobile. He suspects these are computer-generated scam calls and wants other NOTL residents to be aware.

Dear sirs:

I am a Freedom customer. I have, over the past several days, received calls from the following numbers: 289-326-2394, 289-248-7154, 289-501-3720, 289-501-4359 and 289-501-5805.

I do not know any of these, they are not in my contacts and they are unidentified in any obvious way.

Normally, I do not answer any such calls, I check the caller ID or number and

decide whether to answer. I have tried to check on these numbers using several internet sites that purport to list and publicize such scam phone call numbers of origin, but have not found the numbers calling

me there.

I did answer one inadvertently and it purported to be from "the legal department of the CRA." That is what I heard before hanging up.

My question is how the

hell do these people get my number?

I gave up my landline for the same reason. I was getting robo calls all day every day.

Kaspar Pold
NOTL

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Museum's Cemetery Stories series goes online

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum is bringing NOTL's most loved historic characters online through its virtual Cemetery Stories, which will be offered in lieu of the annual theatrical cemetery tours this year.

The ongoing physical distancing measures of the COVID-19 pandemic forced museum staff to think outside the box in terms of programming this fall, and long-time volunteer and actor Judy Thornton proposed taking the series online.

"I was really quite disappointed when I knew that it wasn't going to work for us this year ... I said, 'Do you think there is some way we can do this as a virtual tour instead,'" Thornton said.

Museum managing director Sarah Kaufman thought it was a great idea and things "just kind of evolved from there."

The series features 10 stories filmed in five-minute segments and the first will be released via YouTube on Sept. 30.



Denise Ascenzo does a reenactment. FILE PHOTO

"We're doing some of our favourites from the past and some favourites that people would love," said Babs Worthy, director of the virtual tour series. "Some of the colourful characters from past."

"I take a little dramatic licence at times, but it's all based on facts," she said.

Converting the theatrical tour, which has been running for the past eight years, into quick, informative and entertaining video segments was challenging, she said. "But it's exciting."

The museum's director of finance and marketing, Amy Klassen, said she was worried about how to present the annual cemetery

tours during the pandemic.

"We thought offering a virtual experience would be best," she said. "This format also means that we will have the recordings available for years to come."

Extensive research goes into planning the subjects and scripts for the series. Worthy said she consults with historian Donald Combe from St. Mark's Anglican Church and research files to find "people of interest."

"It's not just about famous and infamous people but the little-known people, people that you would never think of. The women, for example, are often missed in history," Worthy said.

The depth and humour in the characters is what keeps Thornton coming back, eager to play the roles each year, she said.

For the virtual Cemetery Stories, she said she will be revisiting the character Dorothy Carnathan, who is buried in a large mausoleum in St. Mark's cemetery.

"I love this character. She kind of strikes me as not quite sure what's happening in the world around her. I think she's a fun character," she said.

"She was my choice to bring to the virtual tour this year because she's quite funny and I enjoy doing characters like that."

Worthy said the volunteers contribute a "huge amount" of time and effort while forming the scripts.

"They feel, I hope, a lot of ownership over the whole project. And we work together," Worthy said.

"They always have something they want to say or change and that makes it very exciting for me. It means they're really committed and I love that," she said.

Town denied funding for \$5M St. Davids pool

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

The province has rejected the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's bid for funding for the new St. Davids pool, forcing the municipality to scramble and figure out what its next steps will be for the \$5-million project.

The town submitted an application for funding the outdoor pool to the province in November 2019 under the Community, Culture and Recreation funding stream of the federal Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

The town had sought \$4.7 million from the joint federal-provincial program, which provides a maximum of \$5 million for an individual project.

A report to council Monday included the following notification from the director of intergovernmental policy for the Ministry of Infrastructure:

"Following an evidence-

based provincial review process, your project, St. Davids Pool Reconstruction, was not nominated for federal review and approval. The intake of this funding stream was highly competitive, and total demand reached upwards of \$10 billion against total available joint funding (federal-provincial-applicant) of nearly \$1 billion."

The ministry said projects that received funding "were those that most closely aligned with the provincial assessment criteria and federal requirements," such as community need, community support, lack of similar services, accessibility, operational/financial capacity, value for money, asset management planning, whether projects were open to the public and efficiencies through joint projects.

The pool reconstruction project's initial cost of \$2.5 million to \$3 million ballooned to \$5 million after the facility was ex-

panded to six lanes from the original four, solar panels were included on the rooftop and other internal amenities were added, Kevin Turcotte, the town's manager of parks and recreation, noted last February.

The St. Davids pool fundraising committee, formed by the town earlier this year, has been holding off from meeting until there was a decision on the grant application.

"The intent of holding off on the first meeting was to identify what the fundraising target would be if we were successful" in getting the grant, the report to council said.

"As this wasn't our ideal outcome, town staff will proceed in setting up the first meeting of the St. Davids Pool Fundraising Committee to discuss the fundraising campaign's goals and target. Town staff will also look at other granting programs that this project might be eligible for

in the future."

The report said town staff "will be recommending a business case for consideration through the 2021 capital budget process for council approval."

The town anticipates opening the St. Davids Pool in 2021, "pending any COVID constraints (if applicable) or major mechanical/structural problems."

The aging pool was not opened this summer during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"If there are mechanical/structural problems town staff would request funding through a staff report to council."

In an interview, Lord Mayor Betty Disero said the town was disappointed the funding was denied.

However she said she's working on other plans to try and get money for the project.

She added that regardless, the St. Davids pool is planned to open next year.



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LOCAL SNAPS

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This photo was taken in Old Town at Fornos Family Restaurant. My daughter and family came to spend a week with us. We spent the afternoon in everyone's favourite place, NOTL, then off to Fornos for a delicious dinner. My grandson Davis Whiting ordered a huge hamburger. I said let me get a picture of you biting into it. Upon further inspection of the photo it appears he was eating the waitress who was standing in the background. It was a fluke. Awesome photo. Love it! JUDY MACKEY

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Answered first by: Jason Baker

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Katie Reimer, Phil Wilson, Sylvia Wiens, Sandra Lawrence,
Stephen Bartley, Pam Dowling, Margie Enns

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

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>COVID-19</p> <p>Due to COVID-19, many events are now virtual. Find a list of NOTL events here week to week.</p> <p>Stay safe, wash your hands, wear a mask and distance whenever possible.</p>			
<p>20</p> <p>Scout Brigade of Fort George - Ends at 12 p.m. - Virtual: https://sbfq.scouter.ca/</p> <p>Yoga in the Vineyards - 10 a.m. - Palatine Hills Estate Winery</p> <p>Gemstone Aromatherapy Bracelet Making - 10 a.m. - Lakeview Wine Co.</p> <p>Ludwig in Vienna: Three Pearls - 4 p.m. - Facebook @ MusicNiagaraFestival</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Committee of the Whole: General - 6 p.m. - Virtual: livestream.com/notl</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Outdoor Acrylic Painting - 9 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Virtual Coffee with the Lord Mayor - 6 p.m. - Virtual: facebook.com/Town.of.NOTL/</p>	<p>German Conversation - 7 a.m. - Virtual: contact aol.com</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Historic Walking Tours - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park</p> <p>Yoga in the Vineyards - 10 a.m. - Palatine Hills Estate Winery</p> <p>Bit Fitting Clinic - 1 p.m. - Benchview Equestrian Centre</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Famous and Infamous: Pioneer Aviation Alcock and Brown - 2 p.m. - NOTL Museum</p> <p>Community Wellness Committee - 10 a.m. - Virtual: livestream.com/notl</p> <p>Council - 6 p.m. - Virtual: livestream.com/notl</p> <p>Name that Tune - 7 p.m. - The Irish Harp Pub</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Outdoor Acrylic Painting - 10 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p>	<p>German Conversation - 7 a.m. - Virtual: contact aol.com</p> <p>Grinder Pump Commemorative - 10 a.m. - Virtual: livestream.com/notl</p>

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

Lake Report

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sept. 17 - Oct. 3

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	17 Committee of Adjustment - 6:30 p.m. - Virtual: livestream.com/notl Lecture Series: All Along the Waterfront - 7:30 p.m. - NOTL Museum Two Part Lecture Series: Portraiture - 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre LearnMORE from Home: Fakes and Forgeries - 10 a.m. - Contact: manager@riverbrink.org Yoga at RiverBrink - 9 a.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum	18 Lion Burger Drive Thru Barbecue - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Club Two Part Lecture Series: Portraiture - 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Scout Brigade of Fort George - 7 p.m. - Virtual: https://sfbg.scouter.ca/ Virgil Skatepark Ribbon Cutting - Centennial Sports Park - 4 p.m.	19 Scout Brigade of Fort George - All day - Virtual: https://sfbg.scouter.ca/ Watercolour: Let's Get Better at it - 9 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Historic Walking Tours - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park
23 Yoga at RiverBrink - 9 a.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum Scenic Nature - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre RiverBrink Reads: Warhol by Blake Gopnik - 7 p.m. - Virtual: riverbrink.org/events	24 Yoga at RiverBrink - 9 a.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum Scenic Nature - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre RiverBrink Reads: Warhol by Blake Gopnik - 7 p.m. - Virtual: riverbrink.org/events	25 Lion Burger Drive Thru Barbecue - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Club Comedy Show: Humour and Hops - 8 p.m. - The Exchange Brewery Historic Walking Tours - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park	26 Rock the Roof with Riley Michaels and the Breakfast Club - 5 p.m. - Club 55 Fall Fest Evening Market - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - 1126 Line 8 Rd. Watercolour: Let's Get Better at it - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre
30 Committee - 10 a.m. - Virtual: www.riverbrink.org/education.html	1 Two Part Lecture Series: Portraiture - 2 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre LearnMORE from Home: Fakes and Forgeries - 10 a.m. - Virtual: www.riverbrink.org/education.html	2 Two Part Lecture Series: Portraiture - 2 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Lion Burger Drive Thru Barbecue - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Club Fort George Murder Mystery - 2 p.m. - Fort George National Historic Site	3 Picnic in the Park - 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Lions Club Park Historic Walking Tours - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park NOTL Rotary: Multi Location Estate Sale - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Multiple locations in NOTL + Niagara Pumpkin Spice and Everything Nice - 11 a.m. - Outlet Collection at Niagara

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Work on stone barrier at Ball's Beach **nears** completion

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Construction work at Ball's Beach in Niagara-on-the-Lake is nearing completion.

The project saw a large rock groyne and "boulder beach" put in to protect the surrounding area from high water levels and erosion.

Brett Ruck, the town's environmental services supervisor, says the work is expected to be completed by the end of 2020.

The only thing remaining is to put capstones on the groyne and to complete the walking trail along the shoreline, he told councillors during Monday's committee of the whole virtual meeting.

He said the rock groyne is designed so people can walk out onto it.

"We've actually placed rocks in there so they're more like a stepping stones," Ruck said, adding that the town has filled up some of the voids with clear stone, so people don't slip in between the rocks and get hurt.

People still have to take some precautions when out on the rocks, "because



Ball's Beach after shoreline protection work this year. RICHARD HARLEY

you know all those rocks are brand new they're not weathered, so they still have some pretty significant edging to them," he said.

Ruck wants people to be aware there are also rocks in the water at the base of the groyne, "so this is not something you just jump into now."

"We need to make people aware of that so that they understand that those are very, very large what we call tostones so that we don't lose the groyne at all," Ruck said.

"The boulder beach goes pretty well from the groyne, all the way up to that first residence to the north so that you can walk on it. It's

very rounded stone, it's just awkward because it's so big ... the whole point of the stone is to deter people from walking on it but that's not going to stop people from walking on it."

There is still some sandy beach, Ruck said.

"There's a little bit of a sandy beach area that we created with a walkway, stepping stone area down, I don't really want to call it steps or stairs, but it's more of a landscape feature to allow people to get down from the rock down onto the sand."

"You can already see sand starting to form in behind the groyne a little bit. It's a very calm section of water

so people will be able to go in there quite easily."

Ruck said the trail work could potentially be started in the next couple of weeks. He said they're just waiting to verify the available funding and location of the trail.

"That will be seeded and all cleaned up between the trail and the beach," he said, adding the trail will be "considerably higher than what the ground was originally" to protect people and homes from the water.

"We're not going to need the barriers out there unless something crazy goes on, but it's got a nice flat surface for us to be able to put the barriers up if we ever

need them," he said.

"The ground and the trail has been raised, so that it actually flows toward the water and not back into the park and we've put in some additional protection so that the homes in behind there don't get flooded on a regular basis."

He said there's still landscaping to be done on the park and decisions to be made about what's happening with the section that ends up at River Beach.

He said a "god awful" ditch down the centre of the park is no longer needed and instead the town will be creating drainage swale for water run-off in the area. "We're trying to make it more or park-like, less ditch-like."

"What we have been looking at is putting a small swale along the back edge of the park, so that the residences can drain into a swale so we get rid of the water, and any water that we have in there would just be kind of located are persuaded to go in a certain direction, we are going to have a catch basin to be able to put things in that we'll be able to utilize in the rain garden. So we'll be able to

siphon the water from one location to another."

In response to a question from Coun. Allan Bisback about how wide the trail would be, Ruck said plans call for it to be about four to five feet wide.

However, during construction it will be 10 to 12 feet wide temporarily as the stone base and cloth is laid down, but it won't be nearly that broad when completed.

He said the work on the trail will allow it to support weight of vehicles if the town needs to bring any in, "so it's not squashing the ground and tearing the trail up."

When Lord Mayor Betty Disero asked about potential parking at the beach, interim chief administrator Sheldon Randall said there have been discussions about parking, but that the town wants to get public feedback first.

"There have been so many changes over the years from what we initially planned out of that area that I think it would make sense that we get additional engagement from the public on what's going to make sense down there for everyone," Randall said.

Man, 28, arrested after **wild incident** at NOTL outlet mall

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

A 28-year-old man has been arrested after a Mercedes was car-jacked in the parking lot of the Niagara-on-the-Lake outlet mall following a foot chase by mall security.

Police said mall security guards had been "alerted to a man on the property committing criminal acts" on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

The guards detained the man, but a "struggle ensued" and the man "ran throughout the property attempting to evade security officers."

"During his escape attempt the man armed himself with a knife and was threatening the security officers," Niagara Regional Police said in a news release.

The man then ran into the parking lot and "tried to

gain entry into a number of parked cars," eventually locating a parked Mercedes-Benz, opening the door and threatening the female driver with the knife.

The woman was able to escape without injury, as "a member of the public who had witnessed the events unfolding came to assist security officers as they tried to contain the man in the Mercedes."

The suspect attempted

to injure the member of the public with the knife, police said, and was able to flee the area in the Mercedes, "causing damage to it as it exited the parking lot."

Following the incident another member of the public came forward after discovering his parked car had been entered and credit cards were stolen and used to make unauthorized purchases at the Outlet Col-

lection by the same male suspect.

Police subsequently took over the investigation.

A man was arrested driving the Mercedes on Sept. 9 by members of Ontario Provincial Police on Hwy. 401 near London, Ont.

Michael Leroy Barrett, of no fixed address, has been charged by Niagara police with theft under \$5,000, three counts of assault with

a weapon, possession of weapon for dangerous purpose, robbery, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle and failing to comply with a probation order.

Barrett faces additional charges by the OPP in relation to the incident at the time of his arrest, including dangerous driving, prohibited driving, failure to remain at an accident, resisting arrest and impaired operation by drugs.

117 kilos of suspected cocaine seized at Queenston-Lewiston bridge

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

The Canadian Border Services Agency says it seized 117 kilograms of suspected cocaine at the border near Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The agency said a lone

male hauling a tractor-trailer arrived at the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge on Aug. 18 and was referred for a secondary examination.

Officers observed some anomalies in the packaging of the shipment, the agency said in a news release on

Sept. 10.

"Further examination led to the discovery of 104 packages of suspected cocaine concealed within the commercial load. The CBSA seized approximately 117 kilograms of the suspected narcotics and arrested the driver."

The value of the drugs is estimated at \$14 million.

The seizure is "one of the larger land border cocaine seizures" in southern Ontario, the agency said.

About 600 kilograms of suspected cocaine was seized by border officers in southern Ontario be-

tween Jan. 1, 2019 to Aug. 31, 2020.

"These cocaine seizures demonstrate that our officers remain vigilant and committed to ensuring that our borders are not used for illegal activity while travel restrictions at the border continue," said Christine

Durocher, the agency's director general for southern Ontario.

"I am proud of the outstanding work of officers in the southern Ontario region who prevented this significant quantity of suspected illegal drugs from entering Canada."



van noort flower studio



Thank you so much!

During the months of July and August, Van Noort Flower Studio sold cactus gardens with all proceeds going to Epilepsy Toronto. Our goal was to raise \$10,000 by September.

We surpassed that goal, raising \$13,000 for epilepsy research.

Our sincere thanks to everybody who helped out.



Flight of the monarchs

Monarch butterflies at Niagara Shores Park on Tuesday, Sept. 1. DONALD O'CONNOR

Bayne, Townley win annual junior-senior golf tournament



Above: Dustin Richter and playing partner James Grigjanis-Meusel, the reigning club champion, won the annual member-guest tourney at NOTL Golf Club Saturday. Below: The winners of the Junior-Senior Championship Day at the club, Brodie Townley and Andrew Bayne. RICKY WATSON PHOTOS

The Lake Report

The team of Andrew Bayne and Brodie Townley emerged victorious in the NOTL Golf Club's annual junior-senior competition.

Bayne and Townley carded an even-par 36 for nine holes and a handicapped net score of 34.

The NOTL club's junior program attracted a large number of participants in this pandemic year and 13 teams competed in the junior-senior tourney.

They played the first five holes in a scramble format and finished the final four holes using alternate shot.

MEMBER-GUEST TOURNEY: This past Saturday the club hosted its annual member-guest tournament, a 27-hole marathon with nine holes each of better ball (where the

lowest score of each pairing counts), alternate shot and conventional scramble. An 80 per cent handicap factor was then used.

Twenty teams competed in two divisions.

Reigning men's club champion James Grigjanis-Meusel, partnered with Dustin Richter, led the way with an 11-under score of 97 over 27 holes. They won the A flight division.

In the B flight, there was a tie, with Ron Newman and Larry Downes, and Frank Saraka and Ian Tester both scoring 6-under 102.

The result was a playoff among the top teams from the A and B flights for overall honours.

"We had all three teams compete in the playoff, which was contested on hole 9," said associate

pro Ricky Watson.

The A flight winners played off the longer black tees and both B flight pairs off the white tees, to handicap the playoff as no strokes were used, Watson said.

In the alternate shot playoff, "James teed off, just left of the green. Dustin chipped up to about 10 feet and James made the par," he said.

Both B flight teams scored a double-bogey five, meaning Grigjanis-Meusel and Richter were declared overall champions. But the B flight was still tied.

So, back to the ninth tee the two teams went and, finally, Newman and Downes made par to win the B division, Watson said.

MEN'S LEAGUE: Lefty Glen Murray carded an even-par 36 to win low

gross honours in Thursday men's league action. He also tied for top spot with 23 points in modified Stableford scoring and took home a \$20 net skin for a birdie on the sixth hole.

Another lefty, Larry Mantle, netted 23 points to tie Murray. Runners-up with 21 points were Rob Chubey, Alan Dickson and Dow Wright.

Kevin MacLean (full disclosure: the managing editor of The Lake Report) was the big skins winner, thanks to an eagle two.

He holed a lucky nine-iron shot from about 120 yards out on the par-4 first hole. The shot won him a \$60 net skin and \$20 gross skin. Other net skins winners: Brian McKillop (#2) and Dean McCann (#8). Gross skins: John Reynolds (#4) and Mark Derbyshire (#5).

Shaw and Stratford cricketers hold 45th annual match

Steve Ferley
Special to The Lake Report

The Niagara Cricket Club hosted the 45th annual cricket encounter between the Shaw Festival and the Stratford Festival last week.

The players – actors and backstage staff from both arts bodies – desperately

wanted to continue with the annual fixture despite all the COVID-19 restrictions.

In normal years, only players formally contracted at either of the two festivals can be selected. But these days both the Shaw and Stratford have very few of their normal cricket strength on contract.

The Shaw cricket team's organizer-in-chief Jeff Irving said the answer was simply to mix-and-match the two teams to arrive at two equally balanced outfits playing under strict social distancing and sanitizing rules.

Leading lights of Shaw cricket, artistic director Tim

Carroll and vice-chair Ian Joseph, both agree the result was "extremely close."

All funds raised at the game by the players, families and supporters – through sponsorships, donations – will go to the Actors Fund of Canada, a charity providing support to those in the profession.



Niagara Cricket Club hosted the 45th annual cricket encounter between the Shaw Festival and the Stratford Festival last week. TERRY BABIJ





Thank you to all for giving us two platinum in the inaugural NOTL's Choice Awards!

GAMES



Have some fun

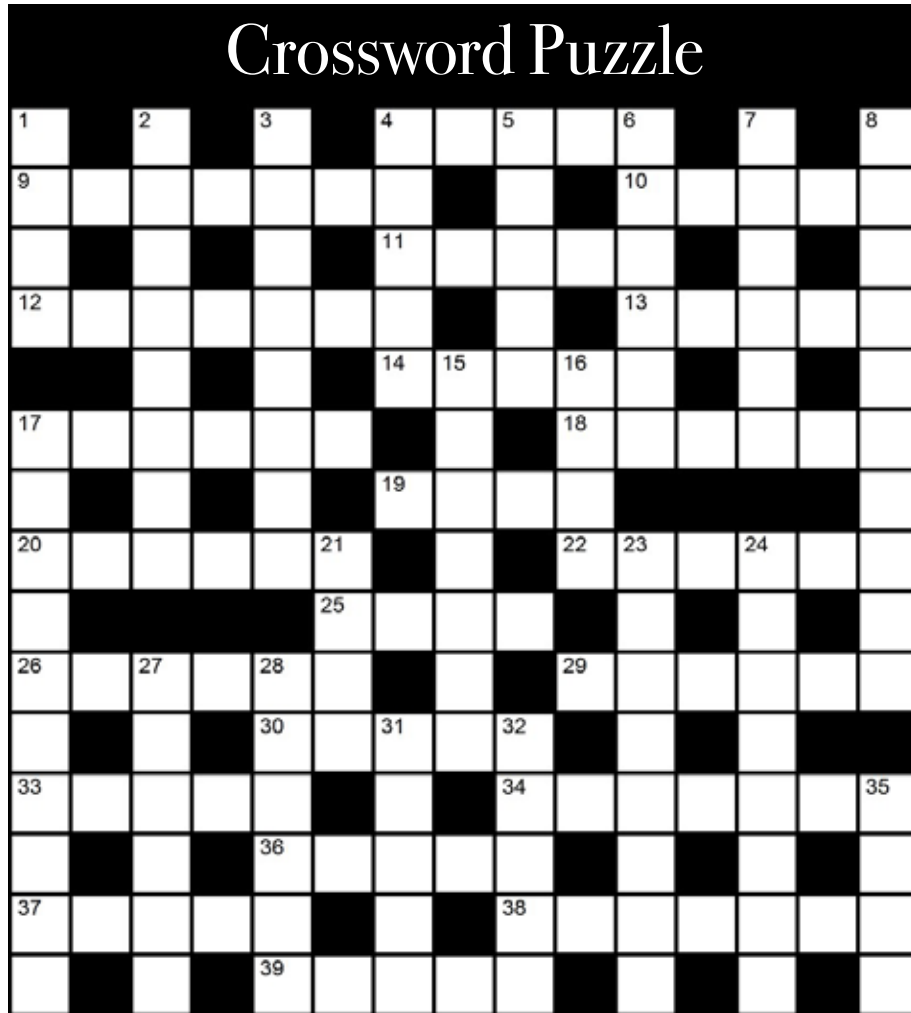
The Lake Report is looking for puzzle makers who would like to help develop this page. We are seeking both standard and cryptic crossword writers. editor@niagaranow.com

Across

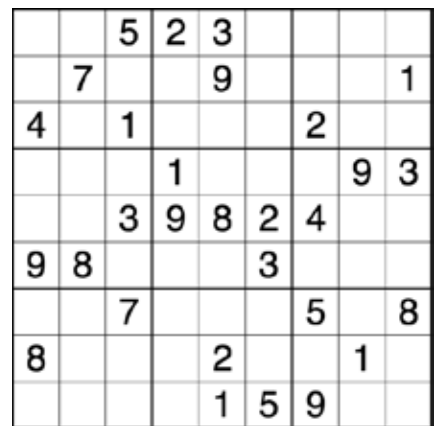
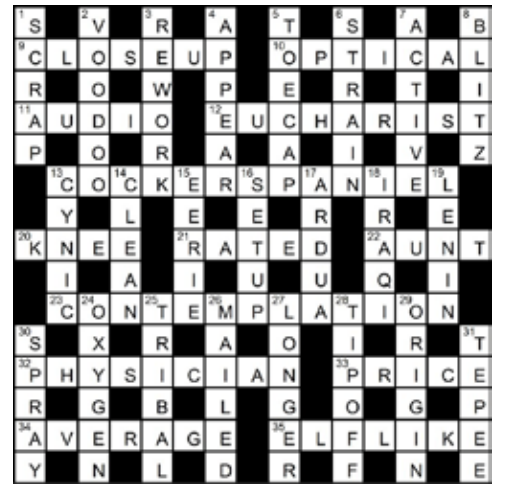
- 4. Arm joint (5)
- 9. Cheering person (7)
- 10. Texan mission (5)
- 11. Existence (5)
- 12. Difficult question (7)
- 13. Brusque (5)
- 14. Arcadian (5)
- 17. Sovereign's seat (6)
- 18. Shooting star (6)
- 19. Card dispenser (4)
- 20. Kidnap (6)
- 22. Small measure (6)
- 25. Republic between Iran and Syria (4)
- 26. Plot (6)
- 29. Far distant (6)
- 30. Hebrew patriarch (5)
- 33. Steeps (5)
- 34. Apprentice (7)
- 36. Seaport in NW Israel (5)
- 37. The last of a series (5)
- 38. Spire (7)
- 39. Preen (5)

Down

- 1. Helper (Abbr.) (4)
- 2. Asked (8)
- 3. Machinery repairer (8)
- 4. Cinder (5)
- 5. Wild rose (5)
- 6. Move back and forth (6)
- 7. Formal gesture of respect (6)
- 8. Group discussion (10)
- 15. World's southernmost city (7)
- 16. So be it (4)
- 17. Semiconductor device (10)
- 21. Fastens a knot (4)
- 23. Performs surgery (8)
- 24. Adults (5-3)
- 27. Paradise (6)
- 28. Accident (6)
- 31. Proof of being elsewhere (5)
- 32. Fastening device (5)
- 35. Ridge of rock (4)



Last issue's answers





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Dr. Brown: Henrietta Leavitt and the distance to stars



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

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

When Prof. Gösta Mittag-Leffler of the Swedish Academy of Sciences wrote Henrietta Leavitt in 1925 to inform her that he wanted to nominate her for a Nobel Prize, he was surprised to learn that she had been dead for three years.

Not the first potential laureate to lose out to death. She died of cancer at 53, largely unknown, except for a few astronomers familiar with her work and a paper published in 1912, "Periods of 25 Variable Stars in the Small Magellanic Cloud."

For that work, the only

credit she received from her boss, Edwin Pickering, the director of the Harvard College Observatory, was a brief acknowledgment in the opening line of the paper – "The following statement regarding the periods of 25 variable stars in the Small Magellanic Cloud has been prepared by Miss Leavitt." That was it for credit.

It was said that Pickering was brilliant, gracious, compassionate and encouraging, yet "chose his women to work – not think." That summarizes how women in general and professional women especially, were treated by many men then and for much of the rest of the 20th century.

Leavitt, who loved her job at the observatory, was a quiet, kind, deeply religious woman of Puritan heritage and daughter of a congregationalist minister. She also was deaf.

Like the other dozen computer women, Leavitt was tasked with the painstaking job of analyzing thousands of photographic negatives taken by Pickering as part of his mission to map the heavens. Her specific job was to map the locations,



Henrietta Leavitt. SOURCED

apparent luminosities and periodicities of a species of variable stars, called cepheids, in the northern sky.

Cepheids are large stars, much larger than our sun, which expand and contract according to how much ionized helium there is in the outer layer of the star. They are also very bright and hence easier to spot at long distances

Measuring distances beyond our solar system and a few nearby stars in the Milky Way was impossible before Leavitt's time. Trigonometric measurements based on the angle subtended by a star at two

different locations on the Earth's surface measured at the same time, works for the sun and its planets.

And extending the base of the triangle by taking measurements of the angle subtended by a star from opposite points in the Earth's orbit about the sun (say, June and December), extends measurable distances to stars farther out within the Milky Way.

But until recent times when, with the aid of space-based satellites and the ability to resolve tiny differences in the angles subtended by stars, astronomers were stuck. For without accurate measurements to far distant stars, it was impossible to determine the size of the Milky Way and beyond.

What Leavitt found was that the apparent luminosity of cepheids, as seen from Earth, varied with their cycle period: longer cycle periods were associated with larger, brighter, more luminous stars and the converse for stars with shorter periods.

That relationship was the key to determining distances to faraway stars. But one piece was missing – how to determine intrinsic lumi-

nosities when only relative luminosities were known? The answer came a year later in 1913 with evidence from a Danish astronomer, Ejnar Hertzsprung, who found cepheids close enough to use the moving cluster method to determine their distances from Earth.

Now intrinsic luminosities could be determined directly from the cycle periods of cepheid stars and with the relative luminosities at hand from direct observations of the stars, distances to far away cepheid stars could be calculated with what became known as Leavitt's law. Measuring distances to the far reaches of the Milky Way and beyond was now possible.

In 1924, Edwin Hubble used variable stars and more luminous O and B supergiant stars in the Andromeda and other nebulae, to determine their distances from Earth. All were far beyond our Milky Way and must therefore be other galaxies. We weren't the only galaxy. Recent estimates suggest there might be trillions of galaxies. You do the math – there must be many habitable planets and probably life.

If that wasn't enough drama, in 1929, Hubble published additional studies, this time employing the doppler effect, whereby galaxies moving away are red-shifted and those moving toward us are blue-shifted, to analyze the movement of galaxies.

These studies revealed that most galaxies were moving away from the Milky Way and one another and the farther away they were, the faster they were moving. It wasn't much of a step to suggest that the universe had been much smaller at one time, an idea, which led directly to the Big Bang hypothesis.

These days the Big Bang hypothesis is taken for granted because the interim steps have been clarified, including the progression from the relative simplicity of the earliest stars to more complex stars, which through repeated cycles of creative fusion created all of the naturally occurring elements in the periodic table.

Indeed, the whole concept of evolution from simple to complex, applied first by Darwin and Wallace to all of biology, applies as much to the life of stars.

Skatepark a booming hit for skaters, scooters from around region

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

The new Virgil skatepark is already getting a lot of use.

About 35 kids from around the region were there Tuesday evening, on scooters, skateboards and bikes

Joel Wall, 19, from St. Catharines, was skateboarding Tuesday evening, showing off some impressive grinds on the rails.

He said he's been at the park every day since it opened.

"It's great. It's a little narrow, if it was a little bit wider would be good. It's just the flow is kind of confusing, but you get used to it, it's pretty good – I love it," he said.

Matt Li, 14, from Niagara-on-the-Lake, was doing scooter tricks at the park. He said he thinks the

park is nice, but that the paint makes the copings a little sticky.

A coping is the top part of a skateboard half-pipe, which skateboards and scooters can grind on.

He said he's been to the park three times, and overall that it's a "pretty good park."

"It's pretty nice, the transitions are good but the only thing I didn't really like about it was the copings, but other than that it's a really nice park super smooth, multiple lines you can take." David Dulas, a father of five from Virgil, was watching his kids skate around.

He said he thinks the part is a positive addition to the community.

"I think it's great. It brings out all the kids of different ages. They seem to get along," he said.



Left: Joel Wall does a grind. Right: Troy Wayland does an ollie down the steps. RICHARD HARLEY



He said even the older kids are watching to make sure the younger ones are safe.

"They keep an eye on them. Yesterday there was a whole bunch of kids here and there was I guess one kid just fell and got hurt, and all everybody got together to help each other out. So, that was good."

Dulas said he's thankful to the Virgil Business As-

sociation for contributing to the park.

One observation by a reporter was that there were very few helmets being worn – and even fewer masks.

Sharon and Jurgen Velsink, Virgil residents whose two sons aged 8 and 10 were using the park, said they think the new park is "amazing."

"We were here, we

wanted to just check it out yesterday. And we ended up staying for two and a half hours. And now today, we want to just come quickly, and now we're here an hour or more. So yeah, the boys love it."

Lord Mayor Betty Dيسero, who will officially cut the ribbon for the park on Friday, said she thinks it's great that it's getting so much use already.

"I'm very excited about that," she said, during an interview Wednesday.

"I'm very pleased that the town was able to complete it and get it ready for people of all ages to use."

She said she thinks the park is "very successful."

"And we're very thankful to the Virgil Business Association who were the impetus for having the skateboard park renewed."




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Happy Rolph's to get upgrade, **name change**

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Happy Rolph's Animal Farm is getting a new name and a \$520,000 upgrade to increase accessibility.

The park's name will be changed to the Rotary Club of St. Catharines Centennial Playground, following a \$95,000 donation to the park from the club.

The other \$425,000 will come from the City of St. Catharines. Originally the city had approved \$330,000 to improve the park, with an extra \$95,000 being approved to match the donation from the Rotary Club.

The goal is to make the park "the most accessible" park in St. Catharines, said



Happy Rolph's is getting a new name. JESSICA MAXWELL

a news release from the city.

The park is located on the Niagara-on-the-Lake side of the Welland Canal, though it is technically in St. Catharines.

The money will support a list of upgrades, including a new accessibility loop throughout the park linking the play area, accessible washrooms, animal

pens and accessible parking spots, a new toddler play area, enhanced picnic area and additional swings.

"The Rotary Club of St. Catharines celebrates its 100th anniversary in May 2021. To mark this significant occasion, we are pleased to partner with the City of St. Catharines and make a substantial contribution to upgrade the playground at Happy Rolph's," said Rotary Club president Sam Walters.

"The legacy of creating the most accessible park in St. Catharines to benefit this community is one our club is extremely proud to support."

Work is expected to begin in spring 2021.

Music Niagara concerts celebrate Beethoven's **250th**

Richard Baker
Special to The Lake Report

Any survey of Western classical music over the past three centuries would undoubtedly place Bach, Mozart and Brahms among the giants.

But, for sheer renown and universal recognition, as the embodiment of classical music itself, the highest niche in the temple of fame must be that of Ludwig van Beethoven.

How else to explain his appeal to people everywhere than to recall that on Nov. 26, 1951, Charlie Brown placed Beethoven's bust on Schroeder's piano. Indeed, Beethoven's birthday was a perennial "Peanuts" event, acknowledged in 27 of the 49 years that Schroeder hammered away at his little comic strip piano.

As to the enduring nature of his appeal, consider that when Beethoven delivered one of his late piano sonatas to his publisher in 1819, the notoriously difficult "Hammerklavier" Sonata (Op. 106), he is believed to have said, "Now you will have a sonata that will keep the pianists busy when it is played 50 years from now."

He was right, but was insufficiently self-admiring to imagine or predict that his music would keep mankind busy, and entranced, for another 200 years after that.



Ludwig van Beethoven. PIXABAY PHOTO

It is that miracle and gift of his music that we now celebrate.

Beethoven's life (1770-1827) spanned the transition from the classical period of Haydn and Mozart to the romantic era of Brahms. By the cruellest of ironies, as a composer whose destiny was the world of sound, he had to face gradual onset of deafness from about 1798, developing into complete deafness by 1817.

As recounted in Tom Allen's "The Missing Pages," which Music Niagara presented recently, when Beethoven was no longer able to communicate with his visitors he began to use conversation books for them to write down their questions and remarks. Despite such affliction, he persisted to the end, composing from inside his mind and soul.

Were it not for a relentless pandemic dominating our consciousness, a far greater awareness would now prevail about the musical significance of 2020, kindled by an abundance of international festivals and concerts in honour of the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth.

Sadly, however, most of these have been cancelled or postponed. Nonetheless, celebrating him was a priority for Music Niagara this year, as evidenced in The Missing Pages' and in this coming weekend's "Ludwig in Vienna – Three Pearls," which will be followed by "Beethoven's Hair" on Sept. 27.

Beethoven lived in Vienna most of his adult life, hence the title of our program. This Sunday, Atis Bankas and Victoria

Kogan will perform three sonatas for piano and violin, each to some extent representative of his musical development.

Opus 12, No. 1 (1798) is elegantly classical but is distinctly his voice. Opus 30, No. 6 (1801-2) has the maturity, melody and grace that we associate with his other well-known sonatas for these two instruments, the "Kreutzer" and the 'Spring,' both composed about the same time.

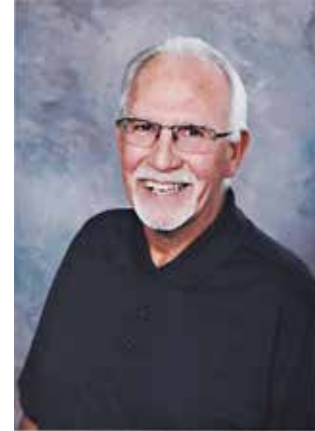
The third work, Opus 96, No. 10 (1812), has a warmth and depth, and sadness, not evident in the earlier works, foreshadowing in parts the deeper and darker reaches of his later music. This program will be aired on the Music Niagara website or on Music Niagara's YouTube Channel on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 4 p.m.

Before leaving this tribute to Beethoven I wish to pay my fond last respects to Ted Walden, who died in Niagara-on-the-Lake last July. A retired lawyer, he lived here for some time and, most significantly, was an accomplished Beethoven scholar who published "My Immortal Beloved," a book investigating the identity, yet to be settled, of a woman Beethoven cherished, to whom he wrote the famous letter of the book's title.

Richard Baker is chair of Music Niagara's board of directors.

Obituary

Joseph Lamarre



Lamarre, Gerald Joseph – Gerry passed peacefully from his earthly home in Niagara-on-the-Lake to his Heavenly Home in Glory on September 14, 2020 at the age of 83. Beloved husband and soulmate of Ruth (Lammert) for 27 years. He will be profoundly missed by his family(-in-law), Linda and Jim Foley with children Alex and Melanie, and Dorothy and Blair Hadfield, with children Tori

(Thomas Mayes), Brandon and Cameron.

Gerry was born in Welland, Ontario to Louis and Edwidge (Pepin) Lamarre, on Friday the 13th of August 1937, the middle of five children. He is predeceased by two sisters, Rita Menard (2000) and Thérèse Reid (2000), and survived by brother Donald (Ann) in Quebec and sister Claudette Hominuk in Niagara Falls. Also survived by children Lori Gagnon and Sherry Kadwell, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He will be dearly missed by many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends all over Canada, USA and in Germany, and deeply missed by the special group he lovingly called his "Florida Family".

Gerry retired in 1994 from a rewarding 31-year career at General Motors. He loved to play golf, was an avid sports fan, and especially passionate about baseball and the Boston Red Sox.

Special thanks to Dr. Ahmed, the Palliative EMS, and nurse Melissa for keeping him comfortable and at home during his most challenging final week.

Visitation will take place at Tallman Funeral Homes, 3277 King Street, Vineland, on Thursday, September 17 from 2-4 and 6-8pm. Due to Covid restrictions, masks will be required to enter the funeral home and all physical distancing rules will apply.

A private family funeral service will be held on Friday, September 18 at Niagara United Mennonite Church in Virgil. Interment following at Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery.

If desired, memorial donations to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care or the Walker Family Cancer Center in St. Catharines would be appreciated by the family. Online condolences at www.tallmanfuneral-homes.ca



Mask **ambassadors** out on the streets

Shaw Guild NOTL ambassador Joanne Morandin talks to visitors on Queen Street. SUPPLIED/RENE BERTSCHI



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Survey aims to measure effectiveness of Cyber-Seniors program

Larry W. Chambers
Hanna Levy
Special to The Lake Report

Many older adults in Niagara-on-the-Lake experience isolation and loneliness – and they also may find it difficult to access information readily available online.

Some might have devices such as laptops, tablets and smartphones but not know how to use them.

Cyber-Seniors is a free NOTL program that trains students to become technology mentors for older adults. Funded by grants and donations, it is endorsed by the NOTL Community Wellness Committee and has a documentary film featuring Cyber-Seniors' accomplishments.

Managed by Nancy Siciliana, the program allows tech-savvy students to gain practical experience while earning volunteer hours and developing skills that will enhance future job prospects. And the seniors learn valuable skills to help keep them connected to the community.

Among the tools Cyber-Seniors tech mentors offer are:

- * Ordering groceries online.
- * Video calling with family and friends (e.g. Face-Time and Zoom).
- * Booking transportation.
- * Online banking.
- * Virtual doctor appointments.

Cyber-Seniors is mainly promoted to older NOTL residents via flyers sent by email to older adults and by flyers given to retirement and long-term care homes. As well, a newspaper article like this one help to raise awareness.

Cindy Grant, chair of the NOTL Community Wellness Committee, says her organization wants to determine how well Cyber-Seniors is working in NOTL. Please call Grant at 905-468-7498 to

share your comments on the questions below to help determine how to improve access to Cyber-Seniors and find out its impact. Responses will be forwarded to Siciliana.

1. Have you learned about use of the internet from a Cyber-Seniors tech mentor?

- a. Yes
- b. No

2. Would you recommend Cyber-Seniors to friends and relatives?

- a. Yes
- b. No

3. How did you find out about Cyber-Seniors? (check all that apply)

- o July 16 newspaper article
 - o A friend or relative
 - o Notification in a retirement home or long-term care home
 - o Other (please specify)
4. Where do you live?
- a. Niagara-on-the-Lake
 - b. St. Davids
 - c. Virgil
 - d. Other (please specify)

5. What else should be done to help people learn how to use the internet?

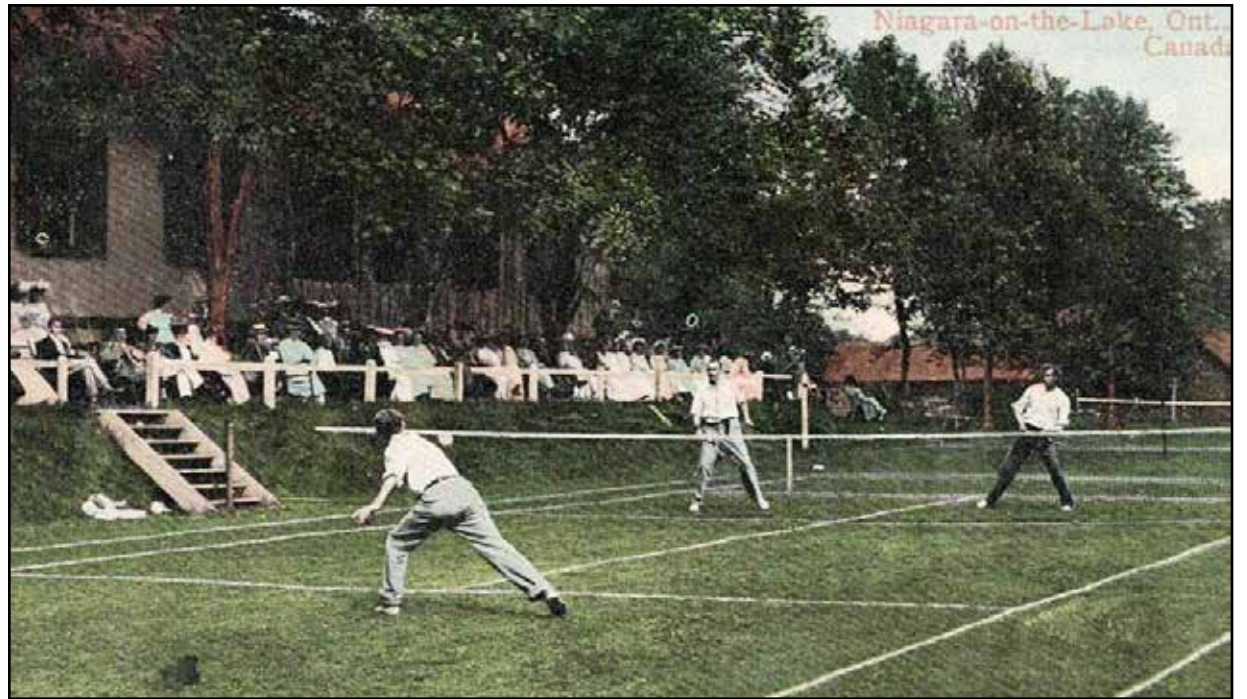
- a. Learning sessions at the library
- b. Learning sessions at the museum
- c. Additional advertisements in the local newspapers about Cyber-Seniors
- d. Other

Seniors interested in receiving help from a tech mentor or students interested in becoming a mentor can call 1-844-217-3057.

To apply online to be a tech mentor, visit www.cyberseniors.org.

** Larry Chambers has authored 175 articles and books on disease prevention, quality improvement in long-term care homes and innovative approaches for continuing professional development. He is research director of the Niagara regional campus of McMaster University's school of medicine. Hanna Levy is a medical student.*

EXPLORING PHOTOS WITH NOTL MUSEUM



Tennis at the Queen's Royal Hotel

Congratulations to the NOTL Tennis Club for celebrating its 50th anniversary! Tennis has a long history in our community beginning with the lawn tennis tournaments at the Queen's Royal Hotel around the beginning of the 20th century. "The International" tournament was held here at the end of summer and was the jewel of the summer circuit for many players. Even the famous May Sutton, a Wimbledon champion, played here, attracting over 2,000 spectators. Matches were scheduled perfectly with the ships' schedules, such as the Cayuga, so that visitors from all over could attend. It was THE social event of the season with many hosting tennis parties for the players and attendees all night long. These historic tennis greens have now been converted to park greens for the community to enjoy in Queen's Royal Park.

ARCHITEXT

They liked to move it

Brian Marshall
Columnist

When I first began studying Niagara's architecture in preparation for writing the "Heirloom Guide to Architectural House Styles" (online: www.heirloom-homeguide.ca), I was struck by the number of historic houses and buildings that had been moved.

That's right, picked up, transported down the road and then set back down on a new lot.

So, let's take a look at a few of NOTL's "walk-about" homes, starting with the "Judge" Butler House on Simcoe Street.

Built circa 1817, this early Regency expression was constructed on a lot in the



The Methodist Meeting House. SUPPLIED/BRIAN MARSHALL

"Butler Tract" that was located near the westerly boundary of Old Town of Niagara on the south side of Niagara Stone Road. In 1969, it was lifted, then moved to its current location where over the next three years it was fully restored.

Next, let's head over to Gate and Prideaux, where we find the Old Methodist Meeting House. Built originally at Gate and Gage (adjacent to the Methodist Graveyard) circa 1823, it was moved to its present location in the 1870s, where it suffered the indignity of housing a "pork factory."

Some decades later, it was

converted into a dwelling and became the home of Mrs. Hannah Lowe Servos and her son Lance.

Then there is the Cappon-Cash House on King Street near Paffard. This circa 1840 Regency Cottage has been moved at least three times.

Local tradition has it on the Vincent de Paul property, then on the Commons near Fort George before being moved to 66 Picton St. In 2005, the building was sold and subsequently transported to its current location, there to be given a new lease on life through restoration.

But there is one house that must be considered a road-warrior. Constructed circa 1815 for William Woodruff in St. Davids, it stood as a proud Georgian family home for the next 154 years.

Then, in 1969, it was sold and its new owners carefully dismantled it, transporting the entirety to Caledon, Ont., with the intent of reconstruction.

Unfortunately, this was not to be, and the house was moved from Caledon to Bond Head in 1992 and again from there to Port Hope. Finally, in 2003, it returned "home" and was brilliantly restored on Ravine Vineyards' property. (Denise Ascenzo wrote a detailed story about this house in The Lake Report last December.)

Perhaps we should take a page out of our shared architectural history by building homes that can withstand a walk-about? There's definitely something to be learned (or remembered) here.



Thank you!
We wanted to express our sincere thanks to the Niagara-on-the-Lake community for voting the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum as the top Museum for the 2020 NOTL's Choice Awards.
43 Castlereagh Street | 904.468.3912 | nhsm.ca



Terry Fox Run is **One Day, Your Way**

Joan King
Special to The Lake Report

This year's NOTL Terry Fox Run is a virtual event. We'll be united in spirit but not in person. We might not be able to gather as a community but you can still participate as an individual, family, or a team.

Run, walk, ride or wheel around your neighbourhood, backyard, down the street or around the block. The theme is One Day, Your Way.

Register now at www.TerryFox.org and you have a choice to donate or sponsor someone.

On Sunday, Sept. 20, from 9 a.m. to noon, I will set up in the bandshell in Simcoe Park with some pictures from past runs and a few size XL 40th anniversary T-shirts and Terry Fox masks for sale.

I will also have participation stickers and certificates as well. If you collected donations using the pledge sheet you can turn them in on Sunday.

The Terry Fox banner will



Joan King has been a major advocate for the Terry Fox run in NOTL. RICHARD HARLEY

be up if you want to take a picture and post it on our Facebook web page NOTL-TerryFoxRun.

If you have a memory of

Terry from 40 years ago, please share on the web page.

Terry turned misfortune into a journey that united a

whole nation. Let's see what we can do in this difficult time to raise money for cancer research.

#tryliketerry



Local Terry Fox enthusiast Joan King encourages people to take photos of their shoes and post them to social media along their run on Sept. 20. RICHARD HARLEY

Music Trivia

NIAGARA'S
NAME THAT TUNE
LIVE WITH LEE

MONDAY NIGHTS AT 7 P.M.

STARTING
MONDAY
SEPT. 21!

- Played on the Cahoot App • Free wifi
- Social distancing rules in effect
- Bring a fully-charged phone/tablet to play on
- Prizes will be awarded randomly
- Limited seating — reservations recommended
(Plexiglass dividers inside)



plus... live music is back!

The O'Deadlys - Sept. 17 | Jack & Ginger - Sept. 18
Patsy & The Muscles - Sept. 19 | Barley Brae - Sept. 20

905-468-4443



245 King St., NOTL