



Sports Wall of Fame grows | Page 9



Beekeepers are losing honeybees at alarming rate

Somer Slobodian
Maddy Gordon
The Lake Report

After all his honeybees mysteriously died, farmer Dave White has had to completely reinvent his bee business.

“We started our hives with honey in the fall so they have food all winter. (Then in) the spring they were all dead,” said the proprietor of White Orchard Farms in Niagara-

Continued on Page 5

ELECTION 2022

NOTL group plans series of candidate debates

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

A grassroots political group in Niagara-on-the-Lake has organized a series of all-candidates meetings in advance of the Oct. 24 municipal election.

FocusNOTL, started in 2017 by a group of residents of The Village, including Joe Accardo, will hold “meet and greet” gatherings and expects that all candidates for mayor, region and council will be attending.

The meeting format is modelled on “the highly successful, popular and

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Spill costs town \$650,000+

Officials won't say what the spilled substance is, only that it is 'organic' material



An “organic waste” cleanup in the area of Line 5 and Line 6 roads has already cost the town more than \$650,000. SOMER SLOBODIAN

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The first few days of a two-week cleanup of a mysterious “organic pollutant” spill in rural Niagara-on-the-Lake has cost the town more than \$653,000 and the bill keeps climbing.

While a town official said the liquid is not a hazardous material, the municipality is not saying exactly what was found.

But from the testing done so far, officials know what it isn't, Marnie Cluckie, the town's chief administrator, said in an interview Wednesday.

It isn't leachate seeping from

a nearby regional dump, nor a herbicide nor pesticide.

The cost figure unveiled to councillors on Monday evening was for the first six days of the cleanup, acting director of operations Kevin Turcotte told council Monday night.

Now, 15 days after the spill was discovered, it's unclear how

much the cleanup bill has grown – or how high it might go.

So far, more than 1 million litres of the pollutant have been removed.

About \$600,000 of the initial cost was for pumping out the pollutant and the remainder

Continued on Page 4

Redesigned Glendale interchange will soon be open to traffic

Steve Hardaker
Community Correspondent

After two and a half years of construction to completely redesign the QEW/Glendale Avenue interchange, drivers can expect to soon start using the new road, the province says.

“We're building the first-ever diverging diamond interchange in Ontario,” said transportation ministry spokesperson Reena Dar.

The new interchange “will improve

the flow of traffic and reduce gridlock,” she said in an emailed statement.

The \$53.8 million diverging diamond interchange, built in partnership among the Ministry of Transportation, Region of Niagara and Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake will give drivers a whole new experience.

It is expected to be fully operational by Sept. 16.

On a diverging diamond road, traffic

Continued on Page 3



Construction crews work on the interchange, which will be open for traffic soon. EVAN LOREE

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Left: Pte. Jack Dietsch, pictured with a Bren gun carrier. Right: In April 1943, Dietsch prepares to sail off to England. He landed on Juno Beach in July 1944, after D-Day, but was killed in action weeks later. ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 124



Joan King wants people to sign up for this year's Terry Fox Run at terryfox.org. FILE/BRITTANY CARTER

THE MONUMENTS MEN

Defiant warrior Jack Dietsch died in German counterattack

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.

Ron Dale
Special to The Lake Report

On D-Day – June 6, 1944 – the long-awaited invasion of France was launched by the Allies, the start of an 11-month campaign to drive the Germans from occupied Europe.

After gaining a foothold in Europe, the Allies continued to slowly push the Germany army back toward the Seine and drive them from the strategic area of Caen, in northern France.

It was hoped that the Germans could be cut off at Falaise through a pincher movement of Commonwealth and American forces. It was at this point that Pte. John “Jack” Dietsch of Niagara-on-the-Lake entered the field of conflict

Dietsch was born in Toronto on March 9, 1921. After his father Emil died in 1934, his mother Mar-

garet moved the family to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Dietsch became a truck driver, working for the Burge Basket Factory. A year after the Second World War broke out, he decided to enlist, signing up with the Lincoln and Welland Regiment, Canadian Active Service Force.

He did not have to go far for preliminary training – only to Camp Niagara on the Commons.

At that point in the war the Lincoln and Welland Regiment was guarding the Welland Canal and Niagara's hydro stations.

During that period, Dietsch's dislike for army rules became evident. On Sept. 5, 1940, he was charged with “neglecting his duty while on sentry duty” and was confined to barracks for five days as punishment.

A month later he was confined to barracks for four days and forfeited two days pay for being absent without leave.

In November he was AWOL again and lost more pay. The pattern continued, with a charge in February 1941 for being found sleeping in bed when he was supposed to be on duty at Decew Falls. Again a month later he was cited for “conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline” he had been fighting.

In early 1942, Dietsch was given leave to marry Mary Margaret Canaher. It was hoped that marriage might settle him down but in September he was once again up in front of his regimental adjutant for fighting in the YMCA.

Over the next year Dietsch was sent on various courses, becoming fully qualified as a driver/mechanic on a variety of army vehicles.

On April 7, 1943, he was transferred to the Algonquin Regiment and on June 11 sailed for England. His wife Mary, now pregnant, moved to Stratford, Ont. Dietsch would never get to hold his daughter Mary Gail, born on Feb. 14, 1944.

In England, Dietsch continued to make his own rules and was again charged with various infractions. It was also clear that his sergeants were keeping a close eye on him.

At one point he was charged with having a dirty Sten gun and at another for having a dirty truck.

Dietsch might not have been a model soldier but he was recognized for being an excellent driver and mechanic. The Algonquin Regiment relied on its transport when they were assigned to the 10th Infantry Brigade of the 4th Canadian Armoured Division. Mobility was crucial in this role.

The Algonquin Regiment landed on Juno Beach in Normandy on July 25, 1944, and was immediately ordered to proceed to the front for the continuing battle to drive the Germans back.

In Operation “Totalize,” a heavy artillery barrage and a bombardment by heavy bombers were supposed to ease the Canadian advance by the 4th Armoured Division. On Aug. 9, the Algonquins pushed on, occupying a hill designated as Point 140.

Through faulty communications, misread maps and less-determined advances by regiments that were supposed to link up with the Algonquins, Dietsch found himself and his comrades cut off from the main force.

A heavy German counterattack resulted in the regiment suffering 128 casualties.

Dietsch, initially reported as missing, was later found among the dead. He was buried nearby and the position of his grave was carefully recorded. After the war, he was reburied in the Canadian Military Cemetery at Bretteville-sur-Laize.

Dietsch may have had little use for the army's strict rules but had nothing but respect for his country, making the supreme sacrifice to ensure a brighter future for all who would follow.

Terry Fox Run is back and celebrating 42 years of fundraising in NOTL

Molly Bowron
The Lake Report

After two “virtual” years, the Terry Fox Run is back in-person and is set for Sunday, Sept. 18 at Simcoe Park, beginning at 9 a.m.

With COVID still a concern, run organizer Joan King said, “We'll have a staggered start so people aren't crowded.”

People are welcome to walk and run the route, and King said there will be directional signs, a map and water available.

Participants also are encouraged to run with a team or family members.

“There's no minimum donation. It's family-friendly and we just want to keep it meaningful, as it has been in the past,” King said.

In conjunction with the run, Sean Wright will be swimming along the Lake Ontario shoreline from Lakeshore Antiques & Treas-

ures to Queen's Royal Park.

Bill Pristanski, founding chairman of the Terry Fox Foundation, also will make a special appearance.

“He has done every run since the beginning. This will be his 42nd run and it is the 42nd anniversary of the Terry Fox Run,” King said.

She suggests everyone register online through terryfox.org and from there runners can pick the Niagara-on-the-Lake run site.

As well, King is selling the new Terry Fox T-shirts, which are available at Grape Escape Tours in Virgil. They're pretty special, she noted.

The front is a picture from Fox's student card at Simon Fraser University and the back declares, “I am not a quitter.”

“Terry Fox was not a quitter,” she said. “He didn't give up, he just ran out of time, so we are that time that he didn't have.”

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Shaw gets \$6 million COVID relief grant

Staff
The Lake Report

The Shaw Festival is getting a huge cash injection of more than \$6 million from the federal government to help in its recovery from COVID restrictions over the past two years.

The grant, “a non-repayable investment” according to the government, will help the Shaw return to its pre-pandemic scale with 13 shows, a new concert series, and its Fairground and Shawground events.

“This investment will create a positive ripple effect across the Niagara region’s tourism and hospitality sectors, strengthen southern Ontario’s position as a tourism destination of choice



Shaw’s executive director Tim Jennings. SUPPLIED

and position the Shaw Festival for strong growth,” the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario said in announcing the money last week.

The pandemic forced cancellation of the Shaw’s 2020 season and the 2021 season was significantly reduced due to closures

and capacity restrictions, said the agency, known as FedDev Ontario.

The news was welcomed by Tim Jennings, the Shaw’s executive director.

“We cannot thank the federal government enough for this much-needed support as we move through our 60th season, the largest

and longest in our history,” Jennings said.

“It is our intent to come back to our pre-COVID-19 attendance and economic impact levels as quickly as possible and this investment will help us do that.”

Helena Jaczek, the minister responsible for FedDev Ontario, said major festivals, such as the Shaw are important to the local economy.

“The Shaw Festival attracts millions of visitors to the Niagara region annually, creating both revenue and jobs across the community,” she said.

“Today’s investment will help the Shaw Festival once again bring quality performances, visitors and economic opportunity to the region.”



Work is nearing completion on the QEW’s new diverging diamond interchange at Glendale Road. EVAN LOREE

Roundabout at Glendale and York roads coming June 2023

Continued from Front Page

on a minor street, in this case Glendale Avenue, diverges to the left side of the road through two crossover intersections, the region says on its website.

This enables left-turning traffic to access the QEW without waiting for signals or crossing other traffic. The result is improved function of the interchange functionality and fewer “conflict points” for traffic, the region says.

“It will eliminate the need for left-hand turns by using a series of interconnected crossover lanes controlled by traffic lights and highway signage that can be easily

understood by road users,” Dar said.

Two in-person public education sessions are planned for Wednesday, Sept. 7, to provide information on how to navigate the new exit.

The first session is from 2 to 4 p.m. and the second is 5 to 7 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn on York Road near the new interchange.

Opening the new exit will require a full closure of Glendale Avenue from 10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16, to 5 a.m. Monday, Sept. 19, to switch traffic from the existing Glendale Road bridge to the diverging diamond.

Dar noted a diverging diamond interchange “provides easier access and flow for

traffic, cyclists, and pedestrians. This interchange design will reduce the number of vehicle conflict points and allow unrestricted access to the QEW.”

Within the existing interchange, there are 28 vehicle conflict points. The new road will reduce that by half.

A YouTube video of the diverging diamond interchange on I-40 in Oklahoma provides a good simulation of what to expect when travelling through the new QEW/Glendale Avenue interchange.

See the video at youtu.be/HD-0QnUILOQ.

Once the new interchange opens, the contractors will

demolish the existing Glendale Avenue bridge, construct a new carpool lot and complete the Airport Road loop ramp under Glendale Avenue.

All that work should be completed by the end of October 2022.

Between then and June 2023, rehabilitation work will commence on the existing QEW pavement.

The project will end in June 2023 with the construction of a roundabout at Glendale Avenue and York Road.

Steve Hardaker has lived in Glendale for over 11 years and is active in several community organizations.

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Town making progress on water loss but leaks prove costly

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The cost of leaky water pipes adds up over time and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake was again reminded of that when council was presented with its 2021 financial audit.

In an otherwise clean audit, the report by consulting firm KPMG revealed that 21 per cent of the town's water was lost or unbilled in 2021.

The audit did not attach a dollar figure to the loss.

The issue has been a thorn in the council's side for several years now, though Coun. Allan Bisback

pointed out that water loss itself is an issue that plagues many municipalities.

"The intention is to try and squeeze that down to something that's within an acceptable range. In my view would be somewhere in the range of 16 per cent," Bisback said in an interview.

"I like things done quickly, but I would like to see some resolution within the next 12 to 18 months," he added.

The financial audit report presented to council on Aug. 18 shows that the loss has decreased since 2019.

According to the Deloitte 2020 water audit, the town's water loss reached a high

of 25 per cent in 2019 with costs totalling \$719,000.

Town staff will apprise council of the total costs associated with water loss for 2022 after conducting the next water audit in the new year.

However, based on the cost of water lost in 2019, The Lake Report estimates the latest loss could be about \$603,000.

Water losses are subdivided into actual and apparent loss.

Actual losses are caused by problems like leaky pipes and the culprits in apparent losses are aging water meters, theft and inaccurate billing.

The Deloitte water report estimated the town could save \$772,000 over 10 years by replacing all water meters 20 years and older.

It also estimated the town could save \$1.3 million over a decade by investing in non-surfacing leakage detection.

So how has the situation changed since then?

The KPMG report recommends the town continue to stay abreast of the issue by conducting a leakage survey every five years.

That would help to identify non-surfacing pipe leaks.

In addition to this, Lord Mayor Betty Disero said the

town intends to conduct a smaller audit every year, but last year's was missed due to COVID-19.

"The town intends to do another 2022 water audit in quarter one of 2023," said Kevin Turcotte, the acting director of operations.

"Staff is taking this situation very seriously," he added.

Prior to the Deloitte audit, the town had gone 20 years without doing one.

Disero said there are a variety of issues slowing progress, including archeological work, which is necessary to identify underground leaks, and supply chain issues, which affect the town's access to replacement water meters.

"When they're doing pipes they have to deal with possible archeological locates (ground markings and records that identify the site of underground utilities)," Disero said.

And a microchip shortage from China affected the town's ability to replace aging water meters, Disero added.

Town treasurer Kyle Freeborn said the town has spent \$17,500 on water locks and \$160,000 on leak detection.

Town staff will apprise council of the total costs associated with water loss after conducting the next water audit in the new year.

Cleanup of drain spill could cost town as much as \$1 million

Continued from Front Page

was for an environmental consultant.

Town treasurer Kyle Freeborn said even if the incident is covered by insurance, there is still a \$50,000 deductible.

If insurance doesn't kick in, the town will have to cut into its reserves to pay for the cleanup, he said.

The town is planning a virtual meeting on Sept. 1 for residents living near the spill. Town staff will be able to take questions and address concerns from neighbours.

As of Wednesday, no more vacuum trucks will be sent to remove any more of the pollutant.

Instead, the next 10 days will be spent dismantling the berms and monitoring the site for any changes, Cluckie said.

"Just to ensure that they're correct, that it's no longer continuing, and there's no longer any elevated organic material that is cause for concern," she said.

The spill was found more than two weeks ago and this week the lord mayor and councillors all said they were still in the dark about exactly what happened – and what material was spilled, leaked or possibly dumped.

The town was notified Aug. 17 about the problem in a ditch not far from a regional landfill along Line 5 Road.

However, the region has

said it has determined the spill didn't come from the old landfill, said Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

By the time town staff arrived, the spill, near Concession 5 and Line 5, was filling an installation called the Cole municipal drain.

The Ontario environment ministry's Spills Action Centre was notified the same day and ordered the town to contain the spill. Ministry officials arrived on the scene at around 10:30 p.m.

"That effort had to go 24 hours a day," Turcotte said.

Staff reacted quickly and built a soil berm at Line 5 and Concession 5, he said. The town has since built three more berms to try to contain the spill.

So far, several vacuum trucks and 10 large containment tanks have been filled with more than 1 million litres of the pollutant.

The town brought in a private contractor, Accuworx, to use vacuum trucks to remove the contaminated water.

According to an information report presented to council, Accuworx placed six 80,000-litre fluid containment tanks along Concession 5 between Line 6 and Line 7 roads. This gave the vacuum trucks a close location to be able to transfer the polluted water.

The next day, the contractor added another four containment tanks on a property on Line 4 across from the



Nancy Broerse was one resident who took to Facebook to voice concerns about the effect of the spill on wildlife. The town says the "organic" material isn't toxic to humans or animals but the volume of it could have been "detrimental" to the environment. SOMER SLOBODIAN

Cole drain. Two tanker trucks disposed of 40,000 litres at an offsite location.

Samples of the pollutant were taken to E3 Laboratories on York Road for testing. Turcotte told council the substance was an "organic pollutant material" but didn't offer any details.

He said this was positive news, since it wasn't a hazardous material.

Since there was such an unusually high amount of organic material on top of the surface water, more than what would normally be seen in a drain, it means the system itself couldn't break down those organic materials, Cluckie said.

"In that large quantity, it could be detrimental, so that's why it had to be removed," she added.

However, an "organic

pollutant" isn't always a good thing, Coun. Sandra O'Connor noted.

"When you're talking molecules, chemistry breaks them up into two categories, organic and inorganic," O'Connor said in an interview.

"So it has nothing to do with being good or being bad. It's just a classification model (of) molecules based on chemistry," she said.

When Coun. Wendy Cheropita asked for the breakdown of the organic pollutant, Turcotte said, "A lot of the times the details of the laboratory results are very detailed, and if you're not familiar with that information, it would be inconsequential to you."

Cluckie agreed that town officials need to be open and transparent about what

happened.

"We want to bring that back through the environmental consultant, so he can interpret it in a way that we can all understand it clearly, at the same time as we identify the source," she said.

A sediment analysis is still being done to try to determine the source.

Speculation on the nature of the substance continues to grow.

"I don't know the answer to that question," Disero said when asked if the substance could be sewage.

The lack of answers has left some councillors dismayed and in the dark.

"We're 13 days into a spill that's going to cost us hundreds of thousands of dollars, (and) we don't know the source, or what it is," Coun. Erwin Wiens told council Monday night, speculating the cost could hit \$1 million or more.

"We're being told it's being contained, but how can you contain something you don't know what the source is?" he added.

Turcotte said the town is investigating the source of the contamination.

"There are a few theories. We have an approximate start point where the spill started," he said.

Cheropita said she's pleased with how the town has responded, but thinks the communication and details could have been clearer.

Some residents are

frustrated and concerned. Longtime NOTL resident Nellie Keeler, who served on council for 17 years, lives right down the street from where the cleanup is happening on Line 6.

Keeler has lived in NOTL since 1947 and she's never seen anything like this, she said.

"This could be classified as Niagara's biggest hoopla I've ever seen," she said.

Another resident, Nancy Broerse, is also concerned.

"Were it actually something dangerous, what effect would that have on the environment, the wildlife and pets?" she wrote in a Facebook exchange with The Lake Report.

Despite the amount that's being spent, there are still few answers.

There's still final cleanup of the berms and more testing to do, but no estimated cost.

"This is, arguably, going to be the most expensive thing we do this year on our budget," said Wiens.

He said people have been calling him non-stop about the spill, but he has no answers to give them.

Disero said it's important that people contact the town if they have questions, because council members have to really watch what they say.

"Because we're trying to stay eligible for, you know, insurance, and all of that," she said.



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Bees at White Orchard Farms, where David White has had to reinvent his honeybee business. SOMER SLOBODIAN

'They just died': Farmers losing bees

Continued from Front Page

on-the-Lake.

He lost all of his hives, rather than the usual one or two casualties that normally occur over the winter.

A few years ago, he had 14 hives. Then there were 10. By last fall, he had eight. Now there's none.

And oddly, there was no evidence indicating what caused the bees' demise.

"They just died. It's the first time we've ever seen this. We've been doing it for about six years now," he said.

It's a widespread problem – and costly, about \$4,000 in White's case. But he's not alone. The problem is much bigger than one small operator in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

According to the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists' colony loss reports, 45 per cent of winter colonies across Canada didn't survive. In Ontario, that rose to 47 per cent.

White had to think of new ways to run his business. Recently, he brought in six nucleus colonies, called bee nucs. Each one contains about 20,000 bees and the goal of the nucs is to serve as a jumpstart for a hive.

The nucs contain a queen, workers and eggs. They come in a four-frame box, which farmers then put into their hives. White said the queen, along with the eggs and her workers, will regenerate the hive.

"It's like starting all over again," said White. "It's kind of a boost instead of starting from scratch."

If this works and the bees don't die off, then he's going to bring in another 20 or 30 nucs next year.

"We're going to start

ramping it up again," he said.

The decline in honeybees is an issue beekeepers have been warning the government about for years. Now, in 2022, millions of bees are dead, leaving beekeepers stumped.

"As far as what's happening here in Niagara, this is the worst we have ever seen in bee mortality," said George Scott, the managing director of Niagara Beeway, an organization that protects native flora and fauna.

"When we look at how those bees died, there is no doubt in our mind that this is due to chemical exposure."

GEORGE SCOTT
MANAGING DIRECTOR
NIAGARA BEEWAY

No one knows exactly why the bees are dying. However, there are many factors that could contribute to their quick decline, including the use of pesticides.

"When we look at how those bees died, there is no doubt in our mind that this is due to chemical exposure," said Scott.

In Scott's family, beekeeping is a multigenerational business. It's in his blood.

Now his main consideration is, "how do we totally revolutionize and innovate our business, so we stay in business?"

"Or do we just stop and let the food prices go up? Let the pollination services fall apart?" he added.

Giving up beekeeping

would be devastating, he said.

Niagara Beeway offers a free swarm rescue for Niagara residents. It used to have five teams across Niagara, but is now down to three, another victim of the bee die-off.

"For the first time in 22 years, I'm gonna have to lay people off because we don't have enough revenue. First time ever. Does anybody care?" said Scott.

The varroa mite, a parasite that feeds on the honeybee, has wiped out a large number of bees, too.

George Dubanow, president of the Niagara Beekeepers Association, said because of climate change, beekeepers need to start treating for the varroa mite in early August rather than September.

Beekeepers are frustrated with how the federal government is handling the situation. Or, rather, how the government hasn't handled the situation.

"The government is not very willing to co-operate, to find out (the cause) or do some lab tests and stuff like that," said Ed Unger, of B-Y's Honey Farm on Concession 6 in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

B-Y can only supply about half of the people who call looking for honey, he said.

Unger also does beekeeping classes, but the bee shortage means there's not enough bees for the students to work with.

Scott said Niagara Beeway wants help from Global Affairs Canada, but when the department talks to beekeepers across the country, provinces can't seem to agree on a strategy.

Importation of "fake" honey is big concern and

Scott said Niagara beekeepers want Global Affairs to take over enforcement from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency said it takes honey adulteration and food fraud seriously.

The agency said it is working to reduce the risk of food fraud by verifying that industry complies with Canada's regulatory requirements, a CFIA spokesperson told The Lake Report via email.

Fake honey is made with diluted real honey with syrups like high-fructose corn syrup or beet syrup, according to the media site Insider.com. Or, alternatively, fake honey can be created when manufacturers chemically modify the sugars in syrups to make them look like real honey.

Fake honey prices undercut those charged for genuine honey, which affects beekeepers and their business.

"When food is misrepresented it can damage the industry's reputation and hurt food businesses that comply with the requirements because they must compete with adulterated products that can be produced more cheaply," said the spokesperson for the CFIA.

Meanwhile, Scott worries about the amount of fake honey being sold in stores and how it's affecting the industry.

And beekeepers can't pinpoint exactly why they're losing entire colonies of bees, uncertainty that has left many of them worried, he said.

"At this particular point, the only thing that's disappearing faster than the honeybees are beekeepers."

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

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 81
Region active cases: 1,036
Region deaths: 606
Region total cases: 45,045

**Aug. 31 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

"Extend the circle of "us" to include as much of the world as possible." - Rick Hanson

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Beneath the marquee



A crowd stands outside the Royal George Theatre on Queen Street on Saturday night under the lights of the marquee. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Editorial

Start with seeking a solution

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

They've been called "massive overkill," "a knee-jerk reaction" and "visual eyesoers."

All three descriptions of the 50 "no parking" signs erected along Four Mile Creek Road in St. Davids are painfully accurate.

The Region of Niagara, which either had a surplus of signs or felt the urge to order a huge number of them, has installed the signs along both sides of Creek Road in the vicinity of the Grist restaurant, a new operation, launched a year ago in the midst of the pandemic – and from all accounts, a roaring success.

Danielle Begin, who runs the popular eatery and pub with her husband Rob, made it clear to us in a news story a few weeks ago: The restaurant feels

targeted. Looking at the region's actions, it's hard to come to any other conclusion.

Too much of a good thing or too much of a success, it seems, led to the parking sign gendarmes cracking down on the Grist.

A spokesperson for the Region of Niagara said driver, cyclist and pedestrian safety is paramount – and we don't disagree.

The region also claims there were complaints about vehicles parking along the stretch of road in front of the Grist.

Who made those complaints, why and whether they were motivated by something other than legitimate safety concerns are questions we might never have answers to, given governments' penchant for keeping secret the names of complainants.

As we've said before, that

is really not a level playing field. But that lack of transparency is an issue for another day.

Perhaps having a large number of cars parked on that road does lead to "sightline issues from the curvature of Four Mile Creek Road," as a regional spokesperson said.

But rather than using the equivalent of a hammer to kill a fly, why would the region not look for a possible solution, maybe for a limited number of vehicles to park there, maybe during certain hours only, maybe ... ?

Well, if you don't seek solutions, none will be found. Guaranteed. That is a long stretch of roadway and we think some sort of accommodation could have been reached.

"This area is currently under review by staff" and a speed monitor and traffic

statistics are being used by the region to determine next steps in the area, we were told.

Cart, meet horse.

A review is a good idea, but was that considered before bringing down the proverbial hammer? That's the way it usually works. Or should.

Fortunately, for the short-term at least, a good neighbour offered some relief.

The Petruccio Marketplace, located a short distance north of the Grist, is allowing customers of the restaurant to use its parking lot when the Grist's is at capacity.

Now, there's a problem that found a solution, unlike the Region of Niagara's reaction which seems like a solution in search of a problem.

No more knee-jerk reactions, please.

editor@niagaranow.com

Have an opinion you want heard?

The Lake Report welcomes your letters to the editor. Please, write early and often. Letters ideally should be under 400 words long. Occasionally, longer letters may be published. All letters may be edited for conciseness, accuracy, libel and defamation. Please include your full name, street address and a daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated. Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published. Send your letters to editor@niagaranow.com or drop them by our office at 496 Mississauga St., NOTL.



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Remarkable medical procedure **cured** decades-long tremors



Dear editor:
In the spring of 2021 I spoke publicly about my history of intentional tremor and seeing a newspaper article about a new procedure at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto that had real success in treating this problem

using MRI technology and focused ultrasound.

I had suffered from shaking in both my hands since high school and by last year it was so severe that I could not sign my name.

I booked an appointment with our family doctor in

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Dr. Luigi Ricciardi, who put together a detailed email for Dr. Nir Lipsman at Sunnybrook outlining my situation.

After several meetings and tests, I was on the operating table and three hours later, the shaking in the left side of

my body was gone.

Because the brain is divided in two parts, left and right, there is a one-year gap between the two procedures.

On Tuesday, July 25, 2022, I got up from the operating table with no shaking on my left or right side.

This is part of the future of medicine and I want to thank Dr. Ricciardi and Dr. Lipsman and everyone at the Virgil clinic and at Sunnybrook for making my life more comfortable.

Bill Auchterlonie
NOTL

U13/14 soccer team had an **exceptional** season

Dear editor:

I am writing on behalf of the parents of the U13/14 NOTL soccer team. Our team played its final game of the season last week and with a 4-0 win ended the year undefeated.

Unfortunately in our age group, Thorold was the only one other team in the league with enough players signed up, so every week our kids and coaches practised Monday evenings on the field at Memorial Park in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Every other Tuesday the team from Thorold came to play against us on home turf. Our team travelled to Thorold every other Friday to challenge and be challenged.

Our coaches and kids took sportsmanship to the next level and all the parents are unbelievably proud of the efforts of all the players and the coaches.

Some games were tied and the rest were wins but moreso, in the end, a group of kids who didn't know each other at the beginning of the season came together.

There never was a moment of gloating and our kids cheered when that per-



Some of the members of the NOTL U13/14 soccer team: Front row: Nathan Lambert, Zeren Ozdemir, Spencer Collins, Dean Velsink, Austin Moolman, Jacob Froese, Julia Rezza and Danielle Smith. Back row: Coach Rob VanEgmond, Ron Sloodsky, Joshua Sasso, Lucas Visca, Adam VanEgmond, Mark Abboud, Ben Raso, Gracie Cherney, Avery Webster, coach Tommy Visca. Missing: Coach Phill Lambert, assistant coach Eton Moolman, Roc Mastromatteo, Ashton Visca, Sienna Lalonde and Halo Lunn-Ure. SUPPLIED

fect shot landed in between the goal posts, no matter who's end of the pitch.

The support they showed teammates, cheering each other on was great to see. Some even met at the field on off-nights to kick the ball and practise the game they love to play.

Because our team was not part of last weekend's NOTL Soccer League's year-end festival, the

parents wanted to make sure our amazing kids and coaches get the recognition they deserve.

An undefeated season, kids who showed respect and sportsmanship, and coaches who volunteered their time to teach new skills, keep them on the ball and make the season so much fun. That all deserves to be recognized.

We are so proud of this

group and want to thank the coaches Phill Lambert, Rob VanEgmond and Tommy Visca for their time and effort to make this season a fabulous one for the kids.

And we want to thank the kids both from Thorold and NOTL for showing up and letting us watch some great soccer.

Sharon Velsink
and parents of the U13/14
NOTL soccer team



Mayor and would-be mayor both **failed to deliver**

Dear editor:

It's not very often that members of Niagara-on-the-Lake council give us a twofer, that is, two items that present examples of their quality of leadership.

At this point in the Oct. 24 municipal election campaign it's not often that incumbents provide us an opportunity of why not to support them in their future campaigns.

Gary Zalepa, as our regional councillor, failed by not providing leadership on the issue of the official plan to regional council and now he is running for lord mayor.

Our current lord mayor, Betty Disero, failed by not providing a clear understanding of our community's needs regarding the old Niagara-on-the-Lake hospital site, yet she believes she deserves re-election.

As The Lake Report noted last week, all proposals for the hospital site were rejected by council.

And then there is our council in general for not

ensuring the town's official plan, which it passed in 2019, is in accordance with the regional plan and the requirements of our provincial Planning Act.

It as now been sent back to the town for "significant" revisions.

If you have followed the history on this item, much of it was political expediency, and the balance neglect.

Don't blame staff and our levels of government, it is beneath you all.

As for the issue of the old hospital site, just enter into a partnership with the nearby Shaw Festival to develop a new theatre to expand the existing complex.

As the future evolves, technical innovation and theatrical requirements also will evolve to make this art form more attractive to growing tourism.

There is a reason why all levels of government support the Shaw. Why can't our own town council?

Derek Inslay
Glendale

Big and overwhelming development **isn't** appropriate

Dear editor:

I am sitting on my front porch, after working on my garden, just relaxing, trying to enjoy a break.

Opposite is a new structure, about which people ask, "What is it? Is it a doctor's or a dentist's?"

I believe it's a new house, I tell them. They shake their heads and move on, murmuring how ugly it is.

Some wonder how on earth it got planning ap-

proval. One said, "It wasn't long ago when there was a restriction to 25 per cent of the lot size that you could build on. That's got to be 65 per cent."

The people who were there before, Billy and Phillis, lived in a tiny old home on the site for most of their married lives.

They loved their garden and had huge trees and a vegetable garden. Lovely people, they moved to be

closer to their family. From where we live, it was a picture of Old Town living.

A woman by the name of Barbara came up to our porch for a chat, "Love what you have done to the house," she said. "I see you're digging holes."

I told her I am planting a blue spruce and a maple to try to hide the building across the street.

"Isn't that awful," she said.



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ARCHITEXT



Clockwise from top left: The Secord-Paxton House gradually crumbling away, the Tattered Lady on Carlton Street, the Milloy-Westaway House and Miss Young's School. SUPPLIED/BRIAN MARSHALL.

A tale of demolition by neglect in NOTL



Brian Marshall
Columnist

Back in the 1980s my driving route between home and the airport took me past one of a comparatively few Canadian Regency Octagon houses.

Sited on a valuable piece of real estate, it had been boarded up for a decade previous and left to the not-so-tender mercy of the elements and vandals.

Then, during one of my trips abroad, it was destroyed by a fire purportedly started by a vagrant – and a piece of Canadian heritage was lost forever. Not surprisingly, shortly thereafter a new subdivision development was built on the land it had occupied.

This is a tale that has been told time and time again across North America: the story of demolition by neglect. It is playing out in NOTL today.

As I wrote in last week's column, the town council has asked for staff reports

on 135 Queen St., 177 Byron and 46 Paxton Lane. Let's drill down a bit on the latter two.

Located beside the Queen's Landing Hotel, 177 Byron is owned by a Canadian corporation that has assembled it together with 189 Byron and 186 Ricardo to form a substantial property block.

In 2021, the owner filed a "Notice of Intention to Demolish" the existing circa 1815 to 1830 Milloy-Westaway house. As of 2015, the building was deemed to be structurally sound.

At this time, no demolition permit has been issued on this listed (but not designated) house, which has been part of the warp and weave of Old Town for about 200 years. It sits boarded up with a gaping hole in part of the roof. Permitted uses of this property include redevelopment as a hotel.

Tucked away at the end of Paxton Lane in St. Davids is the David Secord House. Constructed overlooking the creek circa 1799, over the span of 209 years between 1799 and 2008, only three families held the property title: the Secords, the Hanniwells and the Paxtons.

Historically, these three families played an impor-

tant role in the cultural heritage of St. Davids, not to mention the fact the house is one of a small number in Niagara-on-the-Lake that survived the War of 1812.

It is currently owned by the developer now building a small subdivision immediately adjacent to the house. For the past few years it has been boarded up and no effort has been made to address or maintain the security and structural integrity of this heritage designated building.

Now, let us expand on this list with other examples.

At 630 King St. in Old Town sits the modest dwelling known as Miss Young's School. Thought to be built circa 1816 (although Peter Stokes suggested the possibility it may be a pre-war building) by the master carpenter of Fort George, George Young, underneath the clapboard the house is actually constructed of logs.

It is, in fact, the only surviving log dwelling in Niagara-on-the-Lake and believed to be the oldest of its type in Niagara. Acquired from the Ure estate in 2016, it is currently owned by a numbered Ontario corporation with involvement in the real estate industry.

While not boarded up, it is and has been vacant for

a number of years. I am reliably informed that the building suffers from structural and envelope compromises which, if not expertly addressed, will render the house beyond repair.

If we take a drive out into the countryside, we will find at 512 Carlton St. an architecturally notable historic house surrounded by vineyards.

Built in the mid-19th century cubic-form Regency style, its asymmetric unranked facade, segmentally arched openings and eave brackets show influence of the then emerging Italianate style.

Of particular note, the house is one of very few NOTL buildings constructed entirely of stone; its worked limestone quoins, sills, lintels and opening surrounds formally dressing the main rubblestone wall field.

Owned by a large wine company, it has been vacant for a number of years and subject to periodic vandalism.

I'd like to ask you to help me make a comprehensive list of these threatened houses. When you see a boarded-up old house in NOTL, drop me a note at homeguide.ca@gmail.com. You may help to save a treasure.



NOTL, Niagara Falls and Wainfleet are the only Niagara municipalities that don't have ward systems.

A ward system is an absurd proposal for NOTL

Dear editor:

I am writing regarding Samuel Young's Aug. 25 letter promoting a ward system for Niagara-on-the-Lake, "Yes, NOTL really needs to adopt a ward system."

This letter absolutely begs an immediate and robust reply. In no way would a ward system be beneficial to NOTL. Period.

Mr. Young suggests this become a "priority question at all-candidates meetings" but frankly I find that an absurd proposal.

Here are the simple reasons why.

Implementing a ward system would lay an additional bureaucratic level of cost and administration on town staff, employees who already have a full plate of issues and tracking every day.

Our unique population distribution makes a ward system unworkable. For instance, Queenston and St. Davids have small populations compared to Old Town, Virgil and Glendale. It would simply be inequitable and impractical to draw an artificial "political line" between our towns.

If Queenston or St. Davids residents have a particular issue needing addressing, as Mr. Young suggests, the present at-large system permits a candidate from those areas to put their name forward for council election.

Most people are never in favour of any type of quota system as these seldom benefit the very people they purport to help.

But here is the biggie: Niagara Falls was governed by a ward system from 1970 to 2000. But after complaints of inequity within the system – candidates needing far fewer votes to get elected in one ward versus another – and parochialism creeping into local politics, the council of the day decided to adopt the at-large model in 2002.

Why would NOTL have a different experience?

No, any further talk of a ward system needs to be relegated to the wastebasket.

NOTL has a strong slate of candidates for council – many with leadership skills and successful business experience.

John Buchanan
NOTL



The Lake Report welcomes your letters to the editor. Please, write early and often. Letters ideally should be under 400 words long. Occasionally, longer letters may be published. All letters may be edited for conciseness, accuracy, libel and defamation. Please include your full name, street address and a daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated. Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published. Send your letters to editor@niagaranow.com or drop them by our office at 496 Mississauga St., NOTL.

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Trio of champions honoured with Sports Wall of Fame induction

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Three new names have been added to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sports Wall of Fame.

The inductees honoured at the Meridian Credit Arena on Friday, Aug. 26 are: Launcelot Cressy Servos, a record-breaking golfer who died in 1969; Trevor Falk, a fierce and decorated athlete in multiple sports including hockey and fastball; and Yvonne Haines, an award-winning volunteer with the NOTL Skating Club.

Members of the Niagara Thunderhawks U22 lacrosse team also were recognized during the ceremony for their remarkable undefeated 2022 season and provincial championship win.

However, because the Wall of Fame is reserved for recognizing individual contributions to sport, not team efforts, there's no spot on the wall for them.

Servos was the first to be inducted and his plaque was unveiled by David Servos, a distant relative.

Launcelot was born in Buffalo in 1879, but he



Yvonne Haines stands by her Sports Wall of Fame plaque, which is now on the wall of the Virgil arena. EVAN LOREE

developed his love of golf in Niagara.

After learning to play at an early age, Servos set the record for longest drive in the 1900 U.S. Open, hitting the ball some 230 yards.

His record was soon broken by Harry Varden.

David Servos, a second cousin three times removed, said he was honoured to accept the award on Launcelot's behalf.

Haines was introduced by Judi Boyle-Krzczkowski, the NOTL Skating Club's director of skating programs.

Haines has been with the NOTL club for 30 years and was instrumental in getting the club through COVID-19.

"Once COVID hit, she traded in her laces for organization, protocol safety and sanitization," said Boyle-Krzczkowski.

Haines began volunteering at the club when her daughter started skating as a child and has since won the club's volunteer of the year award three times.

After her daughter left the club, Haines continued to volunteer, going on to work in numerous roles, pouring in endless hours and becoming a reliable source of support for the skaters.

Today, Haines gets to watch her grandchildren take their first steps on the ice.

She said it is heartwarming to watch new skaters on the ice.

"I am grateful I can still give my time and pass on my passion to anyone that will listen," she told the crowd.

"I'm truly honoured to be recognized."

Haines' has formed many friendships with the other club members over the years and still enjoys sharing her passion with others.

Trevor Falk was introduced by his friend and fellow NOTL hockey coach, Rich Andres.

Andres spoke of the competitive spirit Falk brings to every sport, whether it be

track and field, fastball or hockey.

Falk started playing hockey with the NOTL Minor Hockey Association when he was just four.

After playing with the St. Catharines Junior B Falcons for three years, he received a hockey scholarship to the United States.

True to form, Falk turned it down so he could play with his hometown Badgers at Brock University instead.

"If you watch him play hockey and bowling, you'll see both a fierce competitor, team leader and a gentleman who respects his teammates, opposition and supporters," Andres said.

Today, Falk serves as the director of development for the NOTL Minor Hockey Association, though he still competes in dominant fashion in a recreation league against much younger players.

In the 2014-15 hockey season, he coached the NOTL novice BB hockey team to both the Niagara district finals and to a silver medal in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association play-downs.

Many of the speakers

spoke of Falk's character as a father and community member, not just as an athlete.

"You are truly an inspiration to your children and to all the children in Niagara-on-the-Lake, for the determination and the qualities that you possess as a great sportsman, great neighbour, a great father and a great family man," said Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

In an emotional speech, Falk thanked his family and friends for the honour of being inducted.

"I never thought that I would be joining the special people on this wall," he said.

"What I didn't have in physical size I made up for in heart and determination. It drove me to practise harder and be a student of the game," he said.

Ward Simpson, chair of the Wall of Fame committee, closed out the ceremony by thanking the event's many sponsors and encouraged the crowd to nominate deserving athletes to the wall.

Nominations are considered annually, in the early spring.

Elect DON MACDOUGALL

To help bring a high school back to NOTL

My name is **Donald MacDougall** and I am a candidate for **School Trustee with the DSBN**. I am a life-long resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake. I spent five years of my life as a student at Niagara District Secondary School and 30 years as a history teacher and basketball coach at this local high school. I met my wife of 54 years, my best friends and some truly remarkable students at this local high school.

I offer no apologies for my passion on how being able to attend a local high school has shaped my life. In order to understand my positions on education in NOTL, I have three observations that I feel might help any voter to support my bid for Trustee.

Observation #1

I feel that our Town Council and Chamber of Commerce must state publicly their support for the over 850 students in our Town that have no choice but to attend high school in Niagara Falls or St. Catharines.

There is a precedent for this. In the early 1950s, our Town Council along with support from a variety of local leaders embarked on a huge venture — to build a local secondary school. They recognized that it made no long-term sense for NOTL teenagers to have to attend schools in Stamford and Niagara Falls. To borrow an over-used metaphor, this was a game-changer for our Town and for me personally. When students come together, so do the parents. For the first time in the history of NOTL, parents from all parts of NOTL came together to be the Community we are today. Here we are in 2022 with the same issue facing our community that faced our Town in 1955.

Let's put aside for a while our bickering over official Plans and focus on something that unites us. If we, as a community cannot protect our children, do we deserve to refer to ourselves as a community?

Observation #2

I feel that before the Municipal Election on October 24, the DSBN should publicly announce to fully support any student that wants to attend Vineridge Academy on Hwy 55.

There is a precedent for this. In the spring of 1984, the then Director of Education, announced that the Lincoln Board of Education was going to fully fund the privately-owned Eden Christian College which was only 400 yards from Niagara District. This announcement was made from the library in NDSS. The only change to Eden Christian College was a name change — to Eden Secondary School. The new Eden Secondary School still kept several unqualified staff, the chapel, school uniform, team name, and surprisingly, the Advisory Board consisting largely of members of the Mennonite Brethren branch of the Mennonite Church.

Eden Secondary School is alive and well today at the former Lakeport site on Lake Street in St. Catharines. This school has lasted 34 years and is fully embraced by the present DSBN.

I would argue that it is the moral and ethical obligation of the DSBN to extend the same support to any student that wants to attend Vineridge Academy, which is situated at the old Niagara District site on Hwy 55. There would be a name change to Vineridge

but nothing else. It would be like attending the NDSS of old.

Observation #3

If I am elected I would, as soon as a possible, make a motion to request the resignation of the present Director of Education, Warren Hoshizaki.

The number one responsibility of any Director of Education is to insure that all Rules, Regulations, and Laws of the Province of Ontario, and the Federal government be followed to the letter. Since this is a Public School Board this would include the Public School Act, the Education Act, and even the Charter of Rights and Freedom.

Under the Charter of Rights and Freedom there are laws that protect all students and taxpayers of any involvement in any specific religious group unless ALL religious groups are given equal status.

Under the Education Act and the Public School Act the same rules are expressed. Private Schools are exempt.

In the early 2000s, the Province mandated a Review Process to be followed when a School Board was going to close a school because of enrollment issues.

In 1998, the Province mandated rule 444/98 that described how publicly-owned properties were to be transferred or sold.

I have personally witnessed that this Director of Education not only allowed the DSBN to violate these rules, but personally involved himself in these violations. If anyone wants to understand my position better, my phone number is 905-941-4066.

PAID FOR BY DONALD MACDOUGALL



Let's face it: The characters of NOTL give NOTL its character



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
The Lake Report

We regularly hear well-meaning local people pontificating about protecting the character of our charming wee town.

Zoning density, lot coverage, square footage and more details. Can we agree that bricks and mortar and buildings don't give Niagara-on-the-Lake its unique charm?

The characters who live here create the character.

Upcoming in early September, there will be two opportunities to observe many local characters "doing their things" as they continue to be active, working hard to provide interesting, fun fundraising gatherings for all of us.

On Friday, Sept. 9, on the shore of the Niagara River

on the lawns of the Pump-house Arts Centre, well over 200 energized fun lovers will bring their own meals and spend a most pleasant evening under the gaily strung overhead lights. And hopefully a moon – for the Moonlight Picnic.

There will be much socializing and dancing to the fabulous cover band Back in the Daze. For several years now, with a two-year hiatus due to the ongoing deadly global pandemic, this dance-a-thon has featured lotsa bare feet on the grass, as aging characters recall how to have fun.

All this to raise money and to increase awareness of NOTL's artistic epicentre. Close by the imposing lighthouse and with a boat or two passing by on our river that apparently drains one-fifth of the land mass of North America. Who knew, eh?

The next day, Saturday, Sept. 10, our history-laden and expansive Commons will feature polo ponies galloping during the chukkers at Niagara Polo. This fundraiser for the NOTL Museum attracts fashionistas in festive Beau Chapeau hats, with dining options



NOTL resident and Canadian polo legend George "Foster" Dell, right, play-by-play announcing, during the 2018 chukkers. To the left in the photo is Shawna Butts, assistant curator for the NOTL Museum. WENDY DELL

from fancy to basic barbeque.

Sashaying characters in effulgent attire, greeting one another and engaging in important small talk, all to enhance NOTL life.

A small group of local characters, including Rene Bertschi, who is more efficient than the Swiss Federal Railways, work hard to put on a great day for us lucky locals. Come out and stomp Niagara wines and beers.

Gregarious polo announcer George Dell, a former polo player and longtime

member of the Governor General's Horse Guard, will again be on the microphone apprising spectators in real time of the subtleties of polo, a sport sometimes described as croquet on horseback.

Foster Hewitt was the voice of the Toronto Maple Leafs, and his voice, intoning "Good evening hockey fans in Canada and the United States and Newfoundland," and always just in time. "He shoots. He scores" was heard all over Canada.

As Foster Hewitt was to

hockey, George Dell is to polo. Hence, I call my tennis and golf pal "Foster."

But I ramble.

Allow me to mention a few of our townies who give NOTL its "character."

Donald Coombe stylishly walking his dog, eager to chat with his sidewalk pals. Tony and Phil, proprietors of our local grocery stores, often seen in the aisles stocking and straightening and merchandising.

The good and efficient people who work at our post offices, almost never

frustrated by our scribbling and lost keys.

Super achievers like Atis Bankas and his co-workers at Music Niagara, who will bring us some 40 eclectic concerts each year, in unique and classy venues that add to the occasions

Dr. Richard Merritt and Terry Boulton, who do the research and meet the deadlines to publish books describing the "not that long ago" history of NOTL.

What character and characters!

Daily we see members of the Shaw Festival company bicycling around town, often lost in thought as they somehow memorize their lines and choreography.

So many of our street names remind us of our past, which created the character of our town.

So, let me ramble to a conclusion by pointing out that we are so fortunate to share our town with so many diverse characters.

Think about enjoying the Moonlight Picnic at the Pump-house and Niagara Polo on the Commons. Meet some of the characters who combine to give our town its character.

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Grace United's Festival Market includes a taste of Colonial history

John Sayers
Special to The Lake Report

David Greaves, Grace United Church's culinary wizard, has been hard at work making all kinds of accompaniments for the church's Festival Market this Labour Day weekend.

But for the Saturday, Sept. 3, market, the star in David's culinary universe is Colonial Sauce.

We don't know what's in it and he won't tell us, but we have seen cauliflower in the kitchen as well as spices and a host of other ingredients. No one knows David's secret recipe but what we do know is that fans buy Colonial Sauce by the case.



Items like secret Colonial Sauce and a collector's jacket will be on sale on Saturday. SUPPLIED/JOHN SAYERS



However David did disclose that the recipe has been attributed back to the Field family, United Empire Loyalists, who had a large home which still stands on Niagara Parkway.

David has just bottled a new batch of Colonial

Sauce and if it hasn't all been scooped up by Labour Day weekend, you'll be able to buy a jar (or a case), plus a wide array of jams and jellies, at the Festival Market at Grace United Church. See you there.

Then there's what I call

the Battle of the Loaves. Don't you feel that you're eating well – and healthfully - when you eat a slice of a date and nut loaf?

It's sort of like eating nutritious bread (LOL). I'm sure such loaves will be there on Labour Day Saturday, at the home baking table led by Esther Giesbrecht.

And I expect those loaves and many other delights will battle for space with the cherry loaf, cranberry nut Loaf and banana bread loaves. Yummy! This is a battle where everyone wins.

There also is a silent auction. If you're a jazz fan, you're going to be going after the rare, authentic, Toronto Jazz Festival jacket

that makes a serious statement to everyone about your musical interests.

It's just one of many desirable objects to pursue – unless you use the "Buy It Now" feature to eliminate the stress.

Befitting the harvest time of the year, Heinz Probst will have an array of fresh produce, just brought in from the fields. The food for your kitchen table just doesn't get any fresher than this.

And last but not least, you'll find the book sale which attracts buyers from as far away as the Greater Toronto Area and the Lake Erie shores.

Five thousand (yes, 5,000) quality books have been

built up and lovingly organized over many months by book enthusiasts including Marnie Taylor, John and Judith Sayers, Norm and Donna Seymour, and a host of others. We live in a literary town and these books reflect that literary passion.

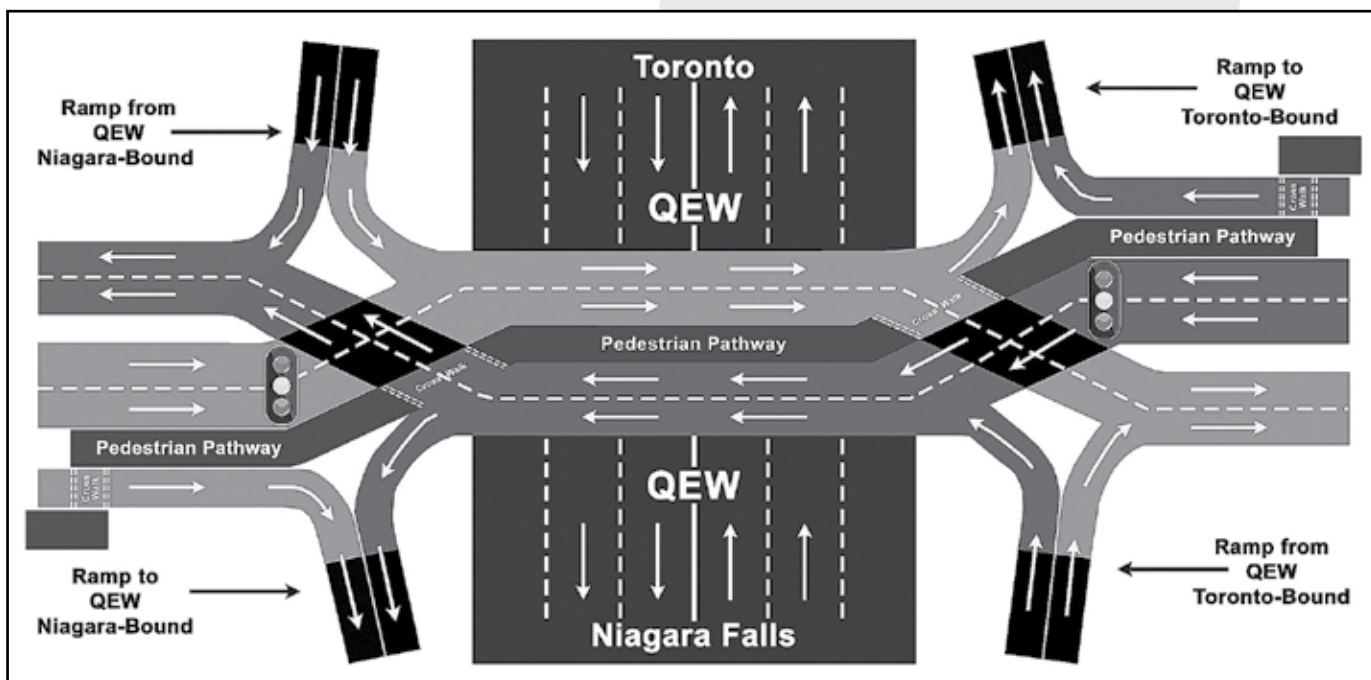
Oh, and don't eat breakfast before you come. Pancakes, sausages and coffee will be ready for you at 8 in the morning to enjoy with the other early birds on Saturday.

I think that there was once a catchy song that went, "Try to remember the third of September" – or something like that. Well worth remembering.

The sale runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Notice of Public Education Session

For the QEW/Glendale Avenue Diverging Diamond Interchange, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Regional Municipality of Niagara MTO Contract # 2019-2119



THE PROJECT

Brennan Paving and Construction and their design consultant Morrison Hershfield were retained by the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to undertake the detail design and construction of the Diverging Diamond Interchange at the grade separated crossing of the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) and Glendale Avenue in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The Diverging Diamond Interchange will be the first of its kind in Ontario. The Diverging Diamond Interchange will provide improved traffic performance compared to the existing interchange design by reducing the number of vehicle conflict points and allowing unrestricted access to the QEW.

BACKGROUND

The interchange, currently under construction, is nearing completion and the project team will host a Public Education Session (PES) prior to opening. This project followed the approved planning process for a Group 'B' project under the MTO Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000) and provided the opportunity for public input throughout the project. A Notice of Study Completion was distributed to stakeholders in January 2021.

PUBLIC EDUCATION SESSION

An in-person PES will be held for this project on September 7, 2022 to provide information on how to navigate a Diverging Diamond Interchange. The PES will follow a "drop-in" format. The first session will occur from 2-4 p.m. and the second session will occur from 5-7 p.m. at Hilton Garden Inn (500 York Rd., Niagara on the Lake). Both sessions will contain identical information. If you are unable to attend either session, background information and the PES materials will be available on the project website at <http://qew-glendale-interchange.ca>.

Following the PES, the DDI interchange will open the week of September 12, 2022. Construction is anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2023. Stay up to date on the project by visiting our website: <http://qew-glendale-interchange.ca>.

COMMENTS

If you have any project related questions or concerns, or wish to be added to the project mailing list, please contact one of the following Team members:

Andrew Bernard
Project Manager
Brennan Paving & Construction Ltd.
140 Renfrew Drive, Suite 110, Markham, ON L3R 6B3
tel: 905-475-1440
e-mail: Andrew.bernard@millergroup.ca

Jason Lee
Contract Services Administrator
Ontario Ministry of Transportation
Construction Office, Central
159 Sir William Hearst Avenue, Toronto ON M3M 0B7
tel: 905-634-9302
e-mail: jason.lee@ontario.ca

Comments and information are being collected to assist the MTO in meeting the requirements of the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. All information collected will be subject to the provisions and disclosure requirements of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act R.S.O., 1990, c.F.31*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

The past comes to life at annual Jane's Walk in Chautauqua

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A crowd of about 50 gathered under a canopy of trees in Ryerson Park last Thursday evening to share in the storied history of the Chautauqua neighbourhood.

The second annual Jane's Walk for Chautauqua drew residents and even a few curious visitors.

Named in honour of famed urbanist Jane Jacobs, the community-organized walking tours explore neighbourhoods while sharing the stories that make those places special.

The walk around Chautauqua was organized by residents Jo-Ann Fraser and Dawn Orr.

"We thought, what a great opportunity to get together with some neighbours, learn a little bit about our community and to share some stories," Fraser said.

This year's gathering featured several returning speakers from last year, including Adam Martin, Kyra Simone and Rick Meleon.

Martin is an ecologist with the University of Toronto, Simone is an environmental expert who also writes a column for The Lake Report and Meleon runs neighbourhood tours for the NOTL Museum.

They were joined this year by Kim MacDonald, a nationally known host on the Weather Network.

The crowd gathered around each successive speaker like campers around a fire as each struggled to be heard over the winds off Lake Ontario.

"We're just interested in where we live and we want to preserve the beauty of Chautauqua for future



Kyra Simone speaks to a crowd of people about the history of Chautauqua during the Jane's Walk. EVAN LOREE

generations," said Kate Sullivan.

Having been a resident of Chautauqua for over 30 years, Sullivan and her family have a deep interest in the area and are always looking to learn something new.

"I never knew about those eels," she said, adding that they were "pretty cool."

Sullivan was referring to the American eel, one of the subjects of Simone's four-chapter story about the local wildlife, told from the perspectives of the animal subjects.

Scientists have been scratching their heads over the American eel for hundreds of years, unable to answer how an animal with no visible reproductive organs can mate.

"We only reproduce once in our whole life," Simone said as she told her story from the perspective of an eel.

She shared stories of the American eel, coyote, monarch butterfly and Baltimore oriole.

Her stories were sad and hopeful in turn as she wove a narrative about how each animal is affected by climate change.

MacDonald also addressed the issue of climate change.

A team from Brock University recently conducted a study of the Niagara region and "found that it was warming at a quicker rate than what the global average was," she told the audience.

The Brock team found between 1910 and 2021 the average annual temperature increased by 1.4C.

The researchers project that by 2050 the average temperature could rise another 1.8C.

"Hope is a feather," said Fraser, paraphrasing Emily Dickinson.

"It gives us all hope that we are a part of a larger community. And we do have each other and we can make a difference," she added.

The crowd moved, as if ushered by the wind, from Ryerson to Chautauqua Park, stopping once to observe the architecture.

Meleon drew the walkers around him in front of the Chautauqua Park sign

and told the story of a small town and its Crooks.

The listeners cracked smiles as Meleon punned on the name of James and William Crooks, who owned a mercantile business on the lake in the years before the War of 1812.

To hear Meleon tell it, the brothers were "incensed" when the American government in 1812 seized their commercial ship and turned it into an armed vessel for the War of 1812.

The Crooks and their descendants fought the seizure of their ship until 1930 on the grounds that it was illegal, he told the crowd.

"The U.S. government finally settled with the Crooks family and paid them reparations of about

\$27,000," Meleon said.

Chautauqua, just west of Old Town, is a labyrinthine little neighbourhood, streets stretching out from Circle Street like spokes on a wheel.

Orr noted, "There was an actual amphitheatre here" and the people who lived in Chautauqua used to host plays, classes and religious services there.

"It's changed how I think about the architecture," she added.

The crowd ended its evening on the lakefront for one last story.

Martin stood atop a nearby picnic table, regaling his listeners with the story of a glacier two or three kilometres high, slowly receding from the area nearly 20,000 years ago.

"Why is it that our forest looks like forests down in the Carolinas?" he asked.

Much of North America was once covered by an ice sheet, stretching from the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic Coast and reaching as far south as New York.

As the glacier receded, it left behind a great lake that would have been anywhere "from approximately 30 metres or 100 feet higher" than Lake Ontario, said Martin.

"And then, slowly, but surely, the Carolinian forest starts to march north," he said.

That is why Chautauqua shares many of the same trees as forests far to the south of it, he said.

The streetlamps were on and the sun was setting by the time the walk ended.

Martin's story was met with applause and the crowd dispersed into the shady streets, leaving behind nothing but footsteps in the grass.


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Kevin Turcotte focuses while he makes his last throw. SOMER SLOBODIAN

Disc golf makes its debut at community centre

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

After three years, Niagara-on-the-Lake has opened its first disc golf course at the community centre.

"It's basically playing golf with a Frisbee," said Jeremy Miron, an avid disc golf player who was checking out the new course.

He was introduced to the sport by a friend he visited out west a few years back. He's been playing ever since the pandemic began.

It's probably one of the quickest growing games on the planet right now, he said. According to UDisc, a popular app for disc golfers, the sport exploded in 2021.

Data from UDisc shows that in 2022 roughly 5.28 courses are built each day. That's more than double from 2020, when it was at 2.5 per day. Currently, there are 79 countries with disc golf courses and counting.

Miron was also on the course last Friday, where he achieved a personal ac-

complishment.

"I got the first ace on the course last night," he said as his face lit up with excitement.

Miron does wine tours in Niagara-on-the-Lake and is from Niagara Falls. His guests were eating lunch, so he figured he'd go out and play some disc golf.

"As soon as you hear the sound of the chains, it gets addictive," he said with a laugh.

The sport is similar to golf. Players just replace golf balls and clubs with a flying disc. However, professional disc golf players don't just use one disc. Some carry between 15 and 25 in their bags.

"As far as the rules are, it's pretty much exactly like golf with just a different medium as far as getting to the hole," said Paul Lalonde, the former chair of the community service committee at the Rotary Club.

He's been leading the project ever since the town brought the idea to him three years ago.

One of the perks of the sport is that anybody can play.

"We love the fact that the sport can be played by a five-year-old as much as it can be by somebody (who) is 100 years old," said Lalonde.

It can be a fun family outing or an intense competition. Lalonde said he's looking forward to seeing tournaments or leagues at the community centre in the future.

When the town approached him three years ago about bringing disc golf to NOTL, he was on board. However, the pandemic slowed the process.

Then, when the pandemic started to settle, Lord Mayor Betty Disero called him up.

She told him a recreational activities survey of people ages 18 to 30 found disc golf was No. 1 on their list.

That news set the plan back into action.

The Rotary Club decided on the community centre because of its accessibility. The club also felt it was the only spot where a checkout

process was possible.

Lalonde said it worked out because they were able to use an under-utilized part of the community centre. The course winds through some of the trees on the property.

"It's a little bit more unique because some of the challenges are, you (have) trees around or bends, or you have a little bit more control on the on the arc of your disk," he said.

Lalonde is excited the course is finally open and said the club hopes to have a grand opening sometime in September.

Currently, the course is free to use for anyone who has their own discs. But after Labour Day the community centre should have discs for visitors to sign out – for free – and enjoy on the course.

Better signs should be up by then, too.

But if anyone has some discs lying around, they can head on over to test out the course any time.

"It's actually one of the best games ever," said Miron.



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: More than one meaning

An object found in groups at certain alleys, or a brooch.

Last issue: The logo of this company founded in 1903 is one of the most requested tattoos in the world.

Answer: What is Harley-Davidson?

Answered first by: Daniel Smith

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Susan Hamilton, Beverley Easthope, Margaret Louter, Claudia Grimwood, Brandy Delaney, Becky Creager, Margaret Garaughty, Steve Sianksy, Ted Wiens, Susan Dewar, Rob Hutchison, Pam Dowling, Wade Durling, Dave Servos, Kay Waller, Gordon Yanow, Doug Bruce, Sheila Meloche, Margie Enns

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Residents can email questions they'd like considered for debate

Continued from Front Page

well-attended meet and greet meetings" that FocusNOTL sponsored during the 2018 municipal campaign, Accardo said in a news release.

Candidates will have 10 minutes to introduce themselves and present their platform, followed by a question-and-answer session. If time permits, candidates can mingle and speak to audience members one-on-one.

FocusNOTL will solicit questions from the public and media organizations. Accardo said people can email questions to notlelec2022@cogeco.ca.

All sessions will be held

at the Royal Canadian Legion hall, 410 King St., from 7 to 9 p.m.

The planned schedule is: Mayoral candidates: Tuesday, Sept. 27.

Councillors: Wednesday, Oct. 5 – Session #1 with four candidates invited; Tuesday, Oct. 11 – Session #2 with four candidates invited; and Wednesday, Oct. 12 – Session #3 with five candidates invited.

Regional councillor: Tuesday, Oct. 18.

Updates will be posted on FocusNOTL's Facebook page, he said.

Citing "negative experiences" with members of the previous council over road safety issues in their neighbourhood, Accardo said the

group was motivated to get involved in NOTL municipal politics.

"We realized that if 'you can't change people, you need to change the people.' At its peak in 2018 there were up to 35 people involved" with FocusNOTL, he said.

The group's Facebook page has just under 700 followers and "we typically reach over 800 people on important issues."

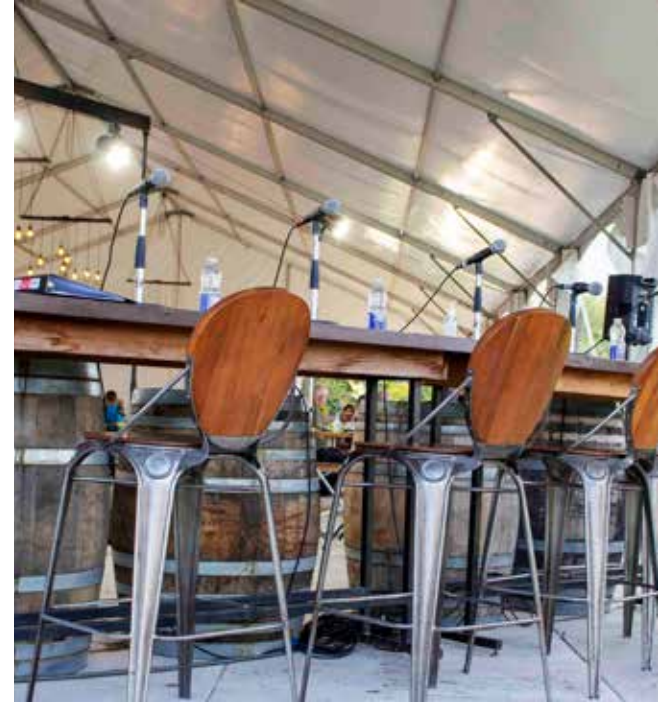
The group's mandate, posted on Facebook, is to "review and comment on community events in Niagara-on-the-Lake and be a forum for residents/ratepayers."

Accardo said he got involved as "my way of con-

tributing to and doing public service."

He said the group wants to bring "fiscal restraint and 'business case' justification back to staff and council, and to be a balancing voice against the special interest groups (hoteliers, B&Bs, tourism enterprises and the Chamber of Commerce) that have for too long profited at the expense of resident taxpayers."

"For too long these special interests have used, for their own personal financial gain, the heritage, cultural, historical, unique architecture, climate and location assets belonging to all residents of NOTL without regard for the residents that fund them through their taxes," he said.



NOTL municipal candidates will face off in a series of debates in September and October. FILE PHOTO

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara passed municipal-wide development charges By-law No. 2022-71 on August 25, 2022, under section 2 (1) of the *Development Charges Act, 1997, S.O., 1997 c. 27*, as amended;

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

the development charges by-law, by filing with the Regional Clerk on or before **October 4, 2022**, a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons supporting the objection.

The schedule of development charges imposed by the by-law, which comes into effect on **September 1, 2022**, is as follows:

SCHEDULE C By-law No. 2022-71

Service/Class of Service	Single and Semi-Detached Dwelling	Other Multiples	2+ Bedrooms Apartments	1 Bedroom Apartments	Special Care/Special Dwelling Units and Rooms	Commercial (per sq.ft.)	Industrial (per sq.ft.)	Institutional (per sq.ft.)	Wind Turbines
Services Related to a Highway	9,883	7,062	6,718	4,096	3,712	6.78	2.23	5.08	9,883
Public Works (Facilities and Fleet)	286	204	194	119	107	0.26	0.09	0.21	286
Policing Services	297	212	202	123	112	0.28	0.09	0.21	297
Growth Studies	84	60	57	35	32	0.06	0.02	0.04	84
Long-term Care Services	1,241	887	844	514	466	0.60	0.20	0.38	0
Provincial Offences Act	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Public Health Services	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Ambulance Services	266	190	181	110	100	0.14	0.04	0.08	266
Housing Services	2,039	1,457	1,386	845	766	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Waste Diversion	176	126	120	73	66	0.04	0.01	0.03	0
Sub-total Region-wide Services/Class of Services	14,272	10,198	9,702	5,915	5,361	8.16	2.68	6.03	10,816
Wastewater Services	7,486	5,349	5,089	3,103	2,811	5.24	2.21	3.87	0
Water Services	4,027	2,878	2,737	1,669	1,512	2.95	1.24	2.17	0
Sub-total Urban Services	11,513	8,227	7,826	4,772	4,323	8.19	3.45	6.04	0
Total Rural Area	14,272	10,198	9,702	5,915	5,361	8.16	2.68	6.03	10,816
Total Urban Area	25,785	18,425	17,528	10,687	9,684	16.35	6.13	12.07	10,816

No key map has been provided as By-law No. 2022-71 applies to all lands located within Niagara Region.

A copy of the complete by-law may be viewed at niagararegion.ca/news/notices/notice.aspx or examined at Regional Headquarters, 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON, L2V 4T7 during regular business hours (weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) excluding statutory holidays.

DATED at Niagara Region offices in Thorold, Ontario, this August 26, 2022.

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

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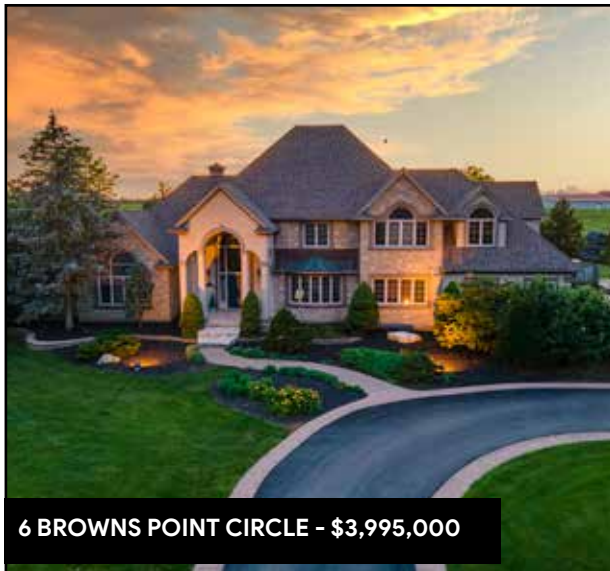
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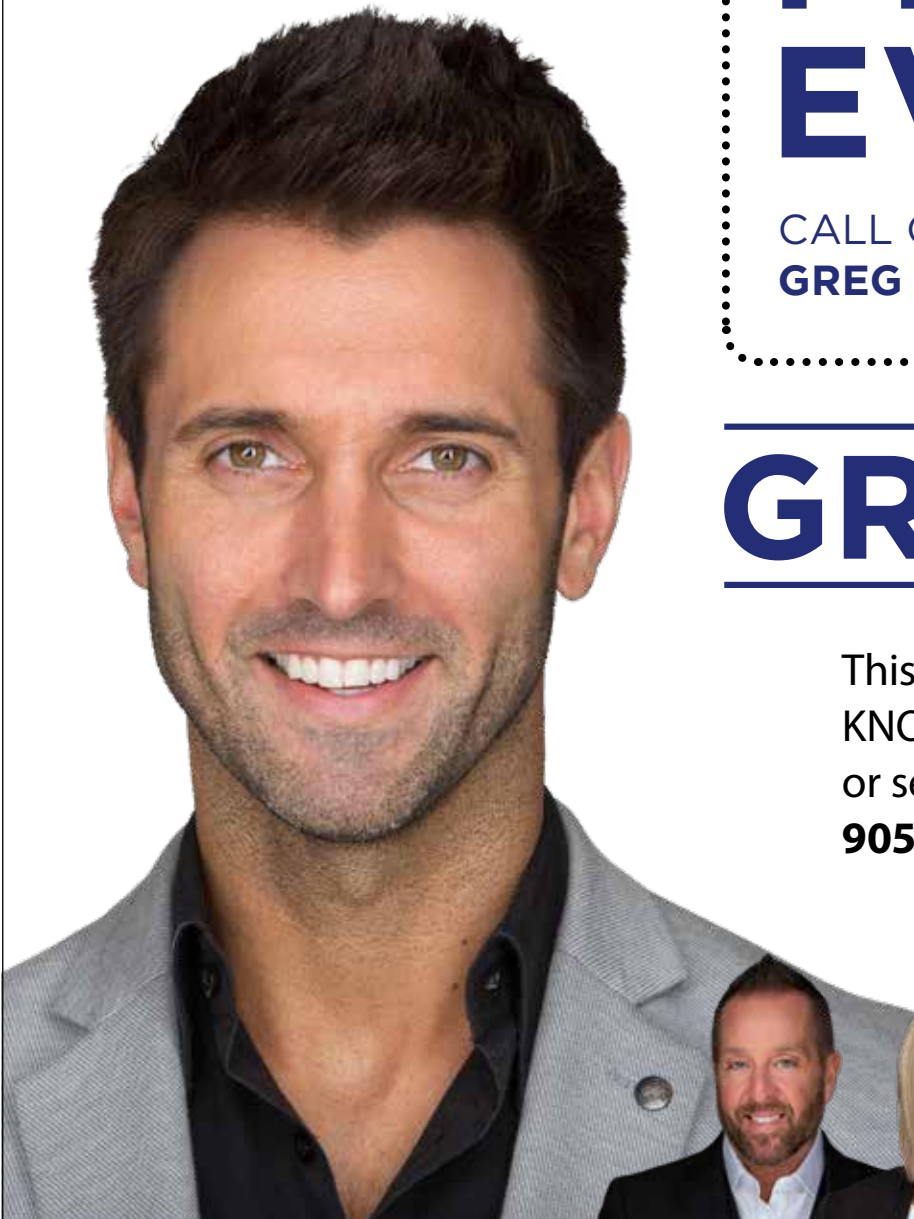
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EYE FOR ART

'Luncheon of the Boating Party'

Penny-Lynn Cookson
Special to The Lake Report

Has there ever been a better time for convivial patio dining than this summer in Niagara-on-the-Lake?

Al fresco dining with close friends, where sparkling conversation takes precedence over food and wine, has been one of the joys of summer.

There is no better work of art to bring this observation home than Renoir's "Luncheon of the Boating Party."

First exhibited at the 7th Impressionist exhibition in Paris in 1882 to rave reviews, it became a must-have acquisition of the American industrialist and collector Duncan Phillips.

It took him years to acquire it, in 1923 from Renoir's dealer, but he did, saying, "Such a painting creates a sensation wherever it goes." It is now the best-known and visited painting

in the Phillips Collection.

Why is it so pleasing? First, it is a combination of figures, still life and landscape. A group of friends is lingering after a delectable lunch on the awning-covered deck of a popular boating restaurant by the Seine, "Maison Fournaise" in Chatou.

Secondly, Renoir's affection for the place and for his friends is apparent in what is a social study, a late 19th-century equivalent of Tatler or Vogue, a veritable who's who of celebrity, status and accomplishment that eliminates class barriers.

Who are Renoir's friends? They are artists, actresses, writers, art patrons, collectors, bureaucrats and seamstresses engaged with one another in a composition that uses diagonals to pull us right into the scene.

The diagonal railing divides the picture in two. To the right are animated figures. To the

left is a landscape of depth and changing light, through bushes to sailboats on the river and opposite shore.

Two contemplative figures anchor the railing. They are the owner's muscular son, Jules-Alphonse Fournaise Jr., wearing a straw boater hat and white boating singlet as he looks after boat rentals, and his pretty sister, Louise-Alphonsine Fournaise, a singer and life of the party.

She smiles while conversing with a man in a brown bowler hat, his back to us, Baron Raoul Barbier, bon vivant calvaryman and former mayor of colonial Saigon in French-occupied Indo-Chine. Foreground right is the Impressionist artist, art patron and avid boatman, Gustave Cailleboitte, also wearing boating gear, who casually sits backward on his chair.

Foreground left, Aline Charigot, seamstress, model and future wife of Renoir, lovingly lifts her Affenpinscher lapdog, a symbol of fidelity, for a kiss. Great care has been taken to show rich details of her blue dress with its red collar, white ruffles and her flower bedecked hat.

The man in the upperclass



Pierre-Auguste Renoir, "Luncheon of the Boating Party," 1881, oil on canvas.

top hat is Charles Ephrussi, wealthy art collector and editor of the Gazette des Beaux-Arts. He chats with his new secretary, Jules Laforgue, a renowned poet and critic wearing a humble fisherman's cap.

In the upper right, the famous Comédie Française actress, Jeanne Savary, covers her ears as she is teased by Lestringuez and embraced by the writer Paul Lhote.

In the centre, the avant-garde actress and favourite model of Degas, Ellen André, drinks from a glass, her challenging eyes gazing directly at the viewer.

Next to Cailleboitte, the Italian satire journalist Adrien Maggiolo hovers intensely over the beautiful actress Angèle Legault, his hand almost touching hers.

The main course is finished. The dropping

afternoon sun highlights the rumpled white tablecloth. Fruit and wine remain.

No one wishes to leave. Pleasure remains in savouring the poignancy of a fading warm day with loving friends, superbly captured in a fleeting, flickering moment by Renoir.

Penny-Lynn Cookson is an art historian, lecturer and writer living in Niagara-on-the-Lake.



5K Fun Run/Walk & 2K Dog Walk

Saturday
Sept. 24
2022

Upper Canada
Heritage Trail
NOTL

Register online at heritagetrail.ca until Sept. 21

5K Fun Run or Walk: \$45*

2K Dog Walk: \$45*

Family (up to 2 adults/2 children): \$100*

* + Running Room credit card fee

Giveaways include: backpack, participation medal, water bottle, and refreshments.

After Sept. 21, registration will be in person on Run Day, Sept. 24 at 7:00 a.m. for \$60 cash only

Start location:

Memorial Park Pavilion (John St. & Veterans Way)

Limited to 150 runners/walkers &

50 dog walkers (limit of 2 dogs per human)

Fun Run/Walk check-in 7:00 a.m. Start time 8:00 a.m.

Dog Walk check-in 8:00 a.m. Start time 9:00 a.m.

Ask friends & family to support the Trail with a donation. Details at: heritagetrail.ca.

Prize to participant who brings in top donation total!

Hosted by Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Heritage Trail Committee. Generously sponsored by:



The Lake Report

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Image Detail: Susan Low-Bear, Mammilla, 2018, ceramic and wood

Softball season finishes up with **playoffs, finals** in Virgil



Niagara-on-the-Lake Minor Softball wrapped up its first full season since before the pandemic with two days of playoffs and finals last Wednesday and Thursday on the Virgil diamonds. Photographer Evan Loree was on hand to capture some of the action as players, coaches and association volunteers celebrated a successful season.

Right time. Right choice.



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Lord Mayor

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SPORTS



Top left: Kids from the NOTL Soccer Club finished up their season on Saturday with a big soccer party at the Virgil fields. Top right: Wesley Bowlaugh kicks a soccer ball around at the NOTL Soccer Club's closing festival. Bottom: Kids played games and scrimmages during the afternoon. SOMER SLOBODIAN

NOTL kids soccer season closes out with **big bash**

The season-ending festival is a highlight of any soccer season, but even moreso this year as teams brought their first post-pandemic season to a fun conclusion Saturday at the Virgil fields. There were games and food and medals, but above all, plenty of fun and sportsmanship. Tryouts for some of next year's travel teams begin soon.



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NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
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Opinion: Crossing the finish line, a tale of passion, sweat and tears

Molly Bowron
The Lake Report

Running on no sleep, I push back my covers and head out to the Royal Henley rowing course before the sun has even broken the horizon line.

Tossing on a nylon singlet and walking down the dock, I lift the feather-light boat over my head and gently place it on the glass-like surface of the early-morning Henley water.

As a retired NCAA athlete, I can attest to rowing being a lifestyle thanks to the endless hours and sweat that are put into the sport.

Niagara-on-the-Lake rower Kai Bartel was able to awaken the parts of rowing that brought me joy at one point in my life because of his positive drive and determination to succeed.

After winning gold in the men's 8 race at the 2022 Canada Summer Games, a huge smile spread across his face last week as he explained the final 50 metres of his race and the thrill of crossing the finish line in first place.

For rowers like myself,



Molly Bowron, front, and Amanda Hemphill at the Royal Canadian Henley Rowing Centre in St. Catharines in 2018. SUPPLIED

the last 50 metres of the race brings a build-up of lactic acids that send painful stiff waves through your body, making the finish line an immediate release.

For Bartel that immediate release was followed by a gold medal and motivation for his next race on his journey to the Olympics.

Arms raised, their fists pounding, Bartel and his

crew released a flood of emotions after crossing the line.

Typically, after a race, the spectators and family on hand cheer loudly, and sometimes there is the sound of a cowbell or two.

But rowing is a small, tight-knit community and there aren't many people who share the athletes' knowledge or love for the sport.

world everything would go quiet and feel like it was just a fever dream.

Despite not having the fame and glamour of things like a hockey championship, summing up Bartel's accomplishment can't be done justice, even in a thousand words. But we'll try.

The end of a race symbolizes much more than just the previous 2,000 metres: it accounts for the early mornings, exhausting practices and, most importantly, the bond that is formed when a crew gets into a boat.

Nothing feels more gratifying than when a crew fits and gels together.

Over my years in rowing, I had many crews, but my partner in crime, Amanda Hemphill, and I formed a bond on and off the water that made all work we put in worth it.

When starting a regular season in rowing, boat crews are set well in advance and the athletes have time to adjust and become one on the water.

In Bartel's case, the men's 8 crew only had one week to practise and learn how to row together before the gold medal race.

"It's challenging at first," being thrown into a boat with people you haven't rowed with before, Bartel says.

It's like working on a major project with people you have never met before. It takes time and, sometimes, ultimately doesn't work.

Bartel, 20, and the rest of the men's 8 all knew what had to be done to win gold.

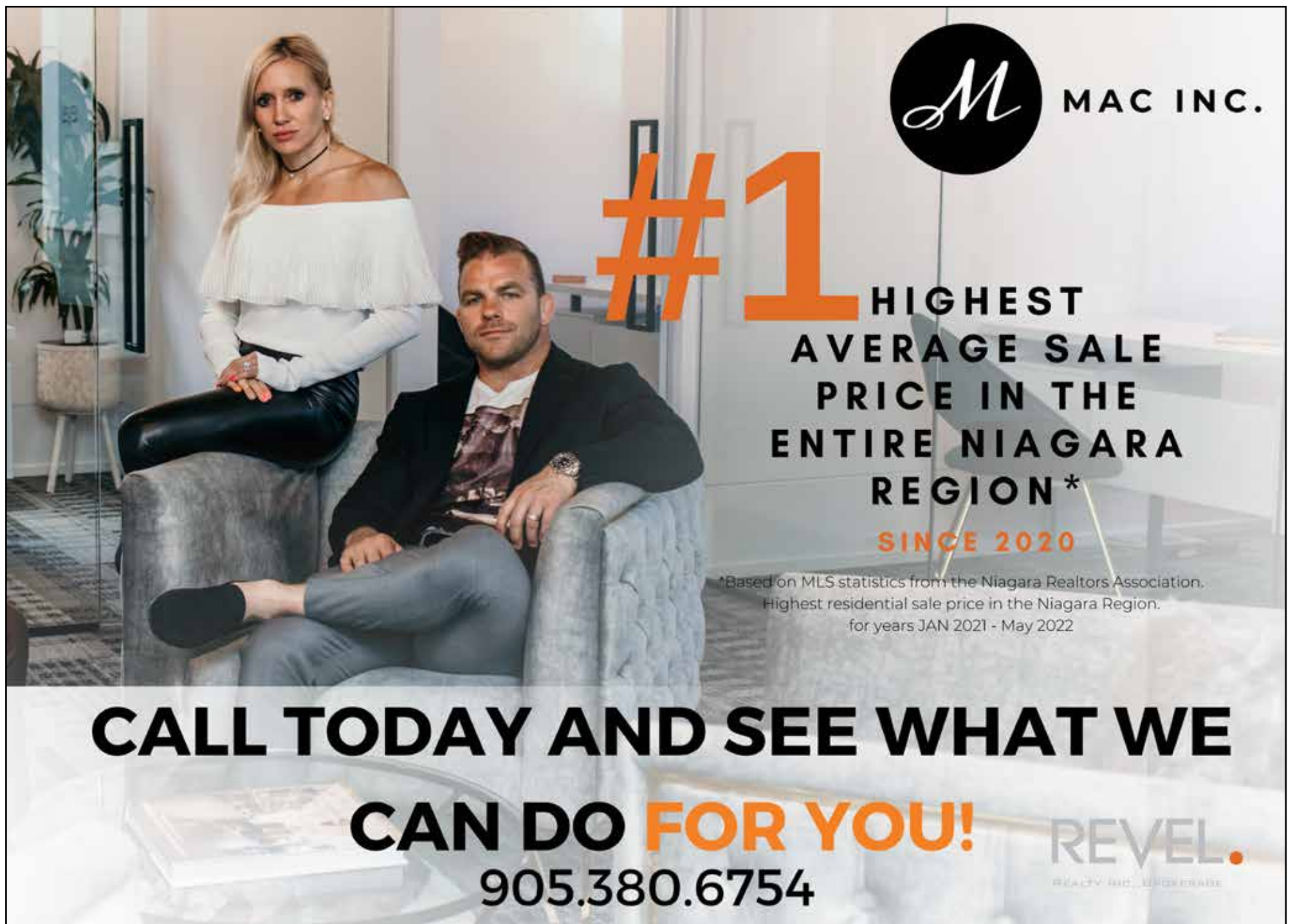
His attitude toward the sport and growth from when he started just a few years ago in Grade 9 show how committed and goal-driven he is.

Rowing is not for everyone and the early mornings and gruelling practices often weed people out.

For Bartel, the sport is a passion, motivating him to improve and get closer to his dream of racing in the Olympics.

Up next for Bartel is making the varsity men's team at the University of Victoria and, observing his racing performances so far, I think they are lucky to have him.

Molly Bowron is a reporter for The Lake Report and former top-level U.S. college rower.



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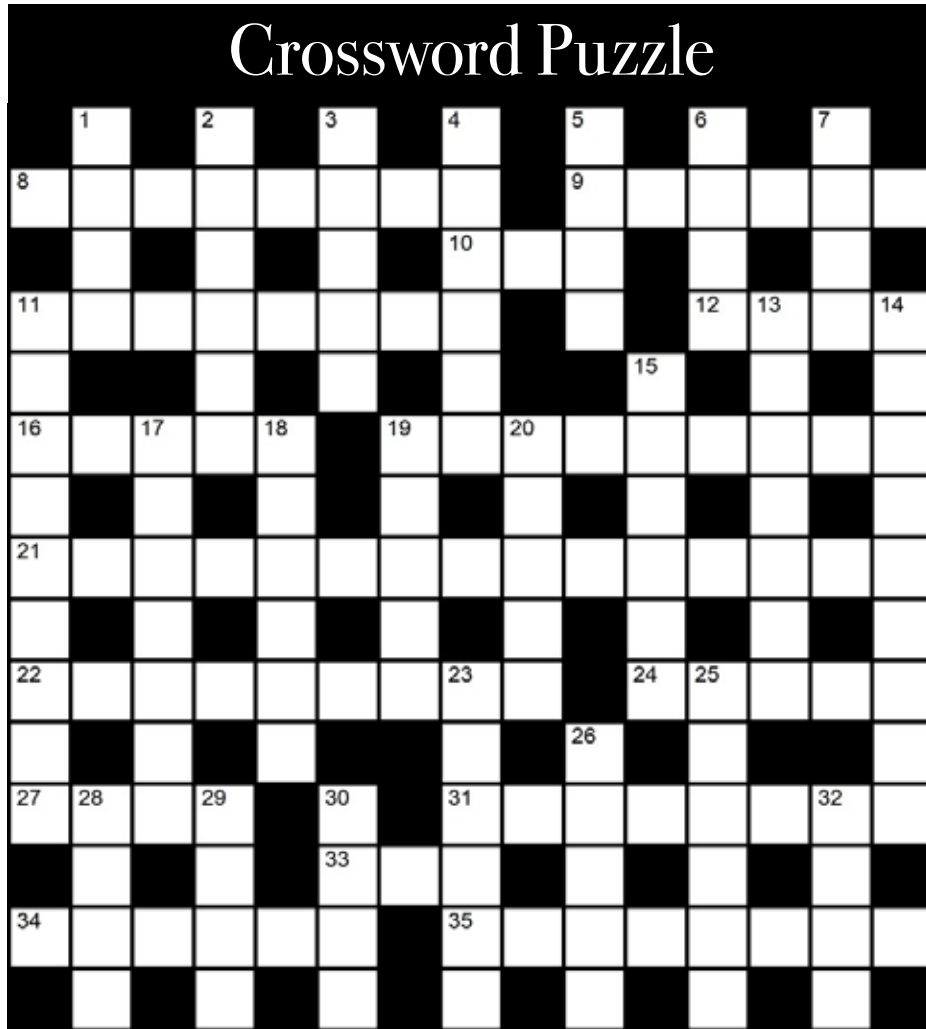


Across

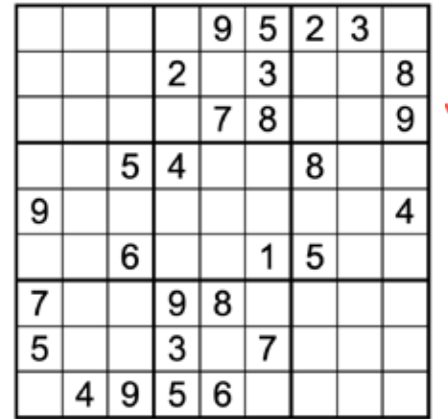
- 8. Precision (8)
- 9. Freezing compartment (6)
- 10. Baste (3)
- 11. Drown Aunt Enid in a fluster (8)
- 12. Former U N leader --- Annan (4)
- 16. Tuscany province (5)
- 19. Out of shot (3,6)
- 21. Throughout the world (15)
- 22. Perceptive (5-4)
- 24. Pigment made from cuttlefish ink (5)
- 27. Gets the point (4)
- 31. Drive out (8)
- 33. US Confederate general (3)
- 34. Fine plaster (6)
- 35. Postponing (8)

Down

- 1. Scrutinize (4)
- 2. Hit the sack (4,2)
- 3. 200 milligrams to a jeweller (5)
- 4. What I normally see in a mirror (6)
- 5. Fruit-bearing Chinese vine (4)
- 6. Hit this to get going (4)
- 7. Dance (4)
- 11. Inborn patterns of behaviour (9)
- 13. Venn diagram common area (7)
- 14. No matter what (2,3,4)
- 15. Twits (6)
- 17. Far-out (7)
- 18. First light (6)
- 19. One end of a fallopian tube (5)
- 20. Cooked in oil (5)
- 23. Beneficiary of primogeniture (6)
- 25. Unfold (6)
- 26. Posed (5)
- 28. Corrodes (4)
- 29. Fortified white Spanish wine of old (4)
- 30. Drama framework (4)
- 32. Characteristic carrier (4)



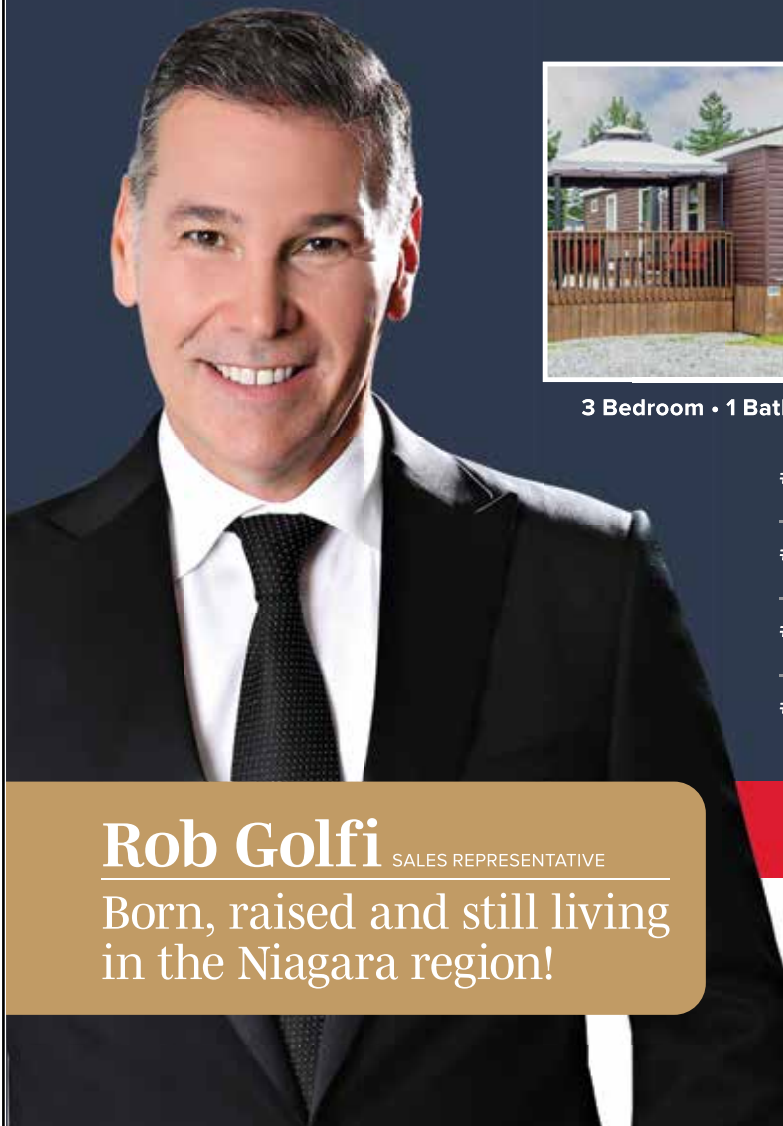
Last issue's answers



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Crick, Watson and long search to unravel the **mystery of DNA**



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

In 1858, Alfred Russel Wallace and Charles Darwin, at the suggestion of mutual friends, presented their studies of evolution to the Linnean Society in London, England.

By independent, thoroughly documented observations of variation within and between species, both arrived at the same conclusion: species evolved through natural selection.

However, one vital piece of evidence was missing: what was the molecular basis of the observed variation?

In 1866, a little-known Austrian friar named Gregor Mendel published his observations on the inheritance of traits such as height and the shape of the seeds and colour in pea plants.

He suggested, following meticulous and carefully documented experiments, that “invisible factors” were responsible for the expression of specific traits.

Unfortunately, neither Wallace nor Darwin was aware of Mendel’s work, despite the obvious implication that his “invisible factors” provided a mechanism for natural selection by favouring certain traits and hence what others would later call, genes.

By the 1940s, DNA (deoxyribose nucleic acid) was known to be the molecule that governed genetic transmission, but no one knew how the constituent molecules composed of bases, sugar and phosphate groups were organized.

The challenge was solved by two men at the Cavendish laboratory in Cambridge, England. Francis Crick, much older at 36, had yet to complete his PhD, and was bored with his assigned project, when he was joined by James Watson, a young American.

Despite their age difference, they were kindred spirits – highly imaginative,

intellectually tough and enjoyed spirited, often noisy, debate.

Both had backgrounds in physics and together solved the problem in much the same way the best theoretical physicists sometimes do, by visualizing the problem with models.

In Crick’s and Watson’s case, they explored which model best fit the known physical and chemical properties of the constituent bases, sugar and phosphate groups in DNA and provided a plausible molecular basis for inheritance.

There were no experiments in the usual sense, only the constant back and forth banter that so upset the department head that he stuffed them in a small office as far away as possible from him – or so the legend went.

Early on Crick and Watson settled on a double-stranded, twisted model (the double helix). More vexing was the question of how the four bases – adenosine, cytosine, guanine and thymine – were paired.

Finally, after much fiddling with the model, they realized the pairing of bases

between opposing strands was governed by rules – cytosine with quinine formed one pair and thymine with adenosine, the other pair.

With this issue solved, so was the mystery of how the parts of DNA came together to form the molecule that governed heredity.

The results were published by Watson and Crick in 1953 in the April 25 issue of Nature in what must be one of the shortest articles on record – one page and a bit.

It included one simple illustration of the double helix – and remains the most important study in biology in the 20th century.

The authors knew they had hit a home run and so did the rest of the scientific community soon after. It was that obvious.

Ten years later, a Nobel prize was shared by Watson, Crick and Maurice Wilkins for their contributions to understanding the molecular structure of DNA.

Near the end of their 1953 paper, Watson and Crick inserted this prophetic paragraph, “It has not escaped our notice that the specific pairing we have postulated

immediately suggests a possible copying mechanism for the genetic material.”

Thus, were they aware from the moment of their creation of the final model of how genetic information was coded and the means for producing exact copies for the next generation.

Watson stayed two years and his position as partner for Crick was taken by Sidney Brenner. Together they discovered messenger RNA.

Other important work by Brenner, Sidney Altman and others filled in gaps between DNA and the rest of the cell and led to the publication of the first complete genome, initially for a tiny 3 millimetre, three-day cycle worm (C. elegans) and a few years later, the entire human genome.

Nicolas Wade from the New York Times summarized Crick’s influence best in his 2004 obituary for Crick: “Dr. Crick was a scientist with a thirst to understand and a talent for productive friendships. It was his two-year collaboration with Dr. Watson that made possible the discovery of the structure of DNA, a feat that each has said he would not

have accomplished without the other ...”

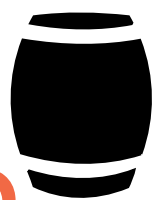
“Crick occupied a rarely paralleled position of intellectual leadership in the early years of molecular biology. In intense efforts to explore beyond the door opened by the discovery of DNA, biologists from Paris to Pasadena were drawn into a pursuit that at every stage was shaped by Francis Crick.”

In later life, Crick and Brenner turned their attention to the brain, with little success. For Crick, the human brain proved far too complex. For, Brenner, his tiny worm with but 301 nerve cells, exhibited too few distinctive behaviours to correlate with losses of specific nerve cells. One great man was defeated by complexity and the other by simplicity.

Tragically, Watson was tripped up by his many remarks on race, once more proving that brilliance and a Nobel are no substitute for wisdom.

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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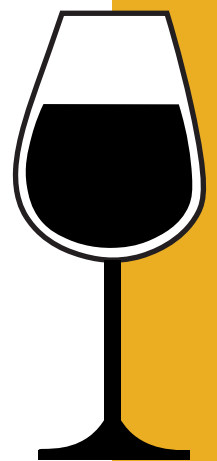
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Bathing Beach, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. Old Fort Niagara in the distance.

Beach time in NOTL

Although the Niagara River has a swift current, residents throughout our history have enjoyed swimming along the shoreline, whether it was off the Queenston or Niagara steamship docks, Ball's Beach, Lion's Beach (Queen's Royal Park), Mississauga or Ryerson Beach. One Queenston resident recalled a beach unofficially called B.A.B. (Bare *** Beach) where kids would sometimes swim nude much to the shock of steamship passengers. From free swim lessons for local children to jumping in the waves as the steamships rolled by to spending countless summer hours sunbathing on the beach, the river has provided a refuge for many from the daily grind. Even soldiers training at Niagara Camp enjoyed a dip in the lake at the end of Queen Street from time to time. The last few weeks of summer are upon us so make sure to get out there and enjoy the sunshine and the wonderful waterfront we have in town.



Irish Harp 'pawsitive patio' welcomes pups

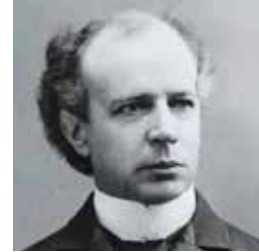
The Irish Harp Pub opened up its patio to dogs and dog lovers on Wednesday. The "pawsitive patio" attracted lots of dog owners to come and enjoy a beverage while their pups got to hang out and socialize with other dogs. In photo: Co-founder of Pawsitive Spirits Brian Moulder (left) sits with his friend Jeremy Buckland at the Irish Harp with their dogs Thor (lab mix) and Marley (pug). SOMER SLOBODIAN

Looking to the Stars

Fresh, new ideas make for an exciting start to a new month

Thursday, Sept. 1: Here's an exciting way to kick off a brand-new month. With new ideas that work. New ideas about relationships, health regimens, work realities, and even travel and education ideas. With Mercury, Mars and Jupiter all working together to make life better, it's time to change for the good. It was Sept. 1, 1905, that Canadian Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier oversaw the admission of both Saskatchewan and Alberta into Confederation.

moon in Sagittarius. Enjoy. Comedian Joan Rivers died on Sept. 4, 2014. In August 1985 she played two sold-out shows at Hamilton Place and was a guest on my late-night talk show on CHAM courtesy of her car cellphone.



Friday, Sept. 2: After the expansive potential of yesterday, a tendency to overdo things is today's caution. Check ideas that seem overconfident. Likely, they are. Happy birthday to tennis great Jimmy Connors, who is now 70.

Monday, Sept. 5: From today until Sept. 29, Venus will make a home in Virgo. After her transit of Leo, the love sign, the next month sees a time when things may be less flamboyant and flashy, but are more finely and carefully crafted. We first saw him on the "Ed Sullivan Show" making a phone call to Queen Elizabeth while playing the role of Sir Walter Raleigh. Several TV series later, Bob Newhart was a national treasure. Today he turns 93.



Saturday, Sept. 3: At 2:07 this afternoon it's the first-quarter moon in Sagittarius. While first-quarter moons can often be challenging, this one likely will be less so courtesy of Virgo and Sagittarius both being what are called "mutable" signs. That is, they are flexible and open to change. Other mutable signs include Gemini and Pisces. It was Sept. 3, 1939, that the Second World War officially began with Britain declaring war against Germany after the Nazi invasion of Poland.



Sunday, Sept. 4: Hopefully, we will be reminded that Venus is in Leo. That is, the planet of love is in the sign of love. The reminder comes courtesy of a sweet connection to the

Tuesday, Sept. 6: Spontaneity is the word of the day. The truth appears frequently too, so be ready for both. Jane Curtin first made us laugh on "Saturday Night Live" and later on "Third Rock." Today she turns 75.

Wednesday, Sept. 7: It's a day to be brave. It's a day to be generous and sexy even. Also, a day when being in touch with a spiritual awakening includes all of this. The first automobile race on a racetrack was won by A.H. Whiting on Sept. 7, 1896, with an average speed of 24 miles per hour.

Please listen to my podcast Looking up to the Stars at www.lutts.ca. It's full of information and fun.

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Are your evergreens losing some needles? There's no need to worry



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Gardening Columnist

One of the many questions that I am asked at this time in the season is, "Why are some of my evergreens starting to turn brown in the centre?"

Have you ever walked under a pine tree and seen the ground carpeted with needles and wondered why?

We all know, of course, that an evergreen is a plant that retains its foliage throughout the entire year. While this is true, it is important to know that every needle on an evergreen has a certain life span.

For a coniferous plant to compensate for the new growth that it has put on earlier in the season, it loses its oldest year's needles. This usually occurs in late summer to early fall, depending on the type of evergreen.

The term used for this annual event is "seasonal needle drop." Despite the name, this process also happens to broadleaf evergreens such as rhododendrons, hollies, euonymus, and boxwoods.

While it is normal, it can be worrisome for homeowners not familiar with this seasonal change.

While every evergreen does lose its oldest year's growth, some will hold on to three years of growth and others for up to five years. It all depends on the type of plant, whether pine, cedar, spruce, fir, juniper etc.

When it is time for the needle drop to happen, you will start to see the innermost needles or leaves (the ones closest to the centre and lower down) begin to yellow, and eventually turn brown.

This is the tell-tale sign



Are your pines losing needles? It's likely just the seasonal needle drop, part of the plant's life cycle. JOANNE YOUNG

of needle drop. As long as the growth at the tips of the branches is looking healthy and holding its colour well, your plant is doing fine.

If you are seeing needles yellowing at the tip of the branches, you need to investigate and see if you might have a disease or insect problem or if you have watering issues.

Eventually, the brown needles or leaves will drop

off the plant. If looking at the brown foliage is troubling you, you can always use your fingers to shake them off the plant.

With some evergreens, needle drop is much more evident than others. Some plants, such as boxwoods and yews tend to have a dense branching habit and you cannot see into the centre of the shrub.

Other plants like white pine trees and most false

cypress varieties have a more open form and so you can see right into the centre of the plant, making needle drop more evident.

Some years, the amount of browning may seem more severe than others. This can be due to environmental stress, which can make more than the oldest needles to drop.

Severe weather conditions, such as periods of drought can cause the evergreens to drop two or three years of older growth. It is part of the plant's protective mechanism to conserve moisture for the strongest and healthiest needles.

Another stress that can cause the plant to drop more than its oldest year of growth is being transplanted or any other root trauma. Losing a couple years of growth at once can leave the plant looking sparse, but it should fill out again with the burst of new growth the next spring.

So, when you start to see your evergreens yellow in the centre, there is no need for concern. It is just another stage of life in the plant world.

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

Obituaries

June Kennedy (Kennett)



Our family was by her side when our beautiful Mom closed her eyes for the last time, on Friday afternoon, August 19th, peacefully and serenely in her own home. Although in her 95th year, she was clear of mind with a wonderful sense of humour. Her life was blessed with many friends of all ages, a

testament to her interest in the lives of others, and her kind and loving nature.

Our hearts are broken that we no longer have this remarkable woman in our lives, but she will be with us in our hearts forever.

Loving wife of the late Edward (Ted) Kennedy. She is survived by her children- Debbie, Leslie (Neil), Darcy, and Scott (Fiona). Also by her grandchildren and great grandchildren, as well as many relatives and friends.

There will be a Celebration of Life at a later date.

Ulrike "Uli" Reschke



Ulrike "Uli" Reschke (née Konzelmann)

Born September 8th, 1966 in Stuttgart, Germany. It is with deep sadness we announce the passing of our Uli, a beloved mother, wife, sister, and daughter, on August 25th, 2022.

After a courageous battle with cancer, Uli is now with her Heavenly Father and

reunited with her niece (Carolina), brother (Matthias), and father (Herbert).

Uli was a loving, gentle, kind-spirited soul who will be deeply missed by her devoted, loving husband James and her incredible children Mikaela, Lauren (Bowen), and Ty (Julia) of whom she was so proud.

She was a dedicated daughter to Herbert (predeceased) and Gudrun Konzelmann and a caring sister to Claudia Konzelmann (Dietmar) and Matthias Konzelmann (predeceased). She was a wonderful daughter-in-law, aunt, and loyal friend to so many. She took great pride in her work as a dental hygienist; she loved her valued colleagues and patients (Dr. Brian Kim).

Uli will always be remembered for her gentle, peaceful nature, quick-witted remarks, and above all else, her faith. Uli had so many favourite verses that encouraged her and gave her strength. Romans 8:6 says:

"For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace."

The family would like to extend their appreciation to the Palliative Care Outreach Team - PCOT (Ari, Paul, Pam, and Helen) who provided exceptional care to Uli.

In keeping with Uli's wishes, cremation has already taken place. There was a visitation at the Tallman Funeral Home in Vineland on Tuesday, August 30 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. The family would ask that in lieu of flowers, anyone wishing to, would donate in Uli's name to Hospice Niagara.

A private celebration of Uli's life will take place at a later date. Online condolences at tallmanfuneralhomes.ca.




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